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M ' F I N G A L ;

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THE TWO A.L.

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[By John Trumbull.]

WITH EXPLANATORY NOTES.

Horat. Lib. i. Sat. 10.

L O N D O N :

M. F. N. G. A. L.

A. HODGSON

M. F. N. G. A. L.

IN

TOUR CANADIAN



THE BRITISH MUSEUM

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EDITOR'S PREFACE

TO THE

L O N D O N E D I T I O N .

THE Author of this work is John Trumbull, Esq. an eminent Counsellor, in the State of Connecticut, a near relation of the late Governor Trumbull of that State, and of Mr. Trumbull the Painter. The great reputation gained in this kingdom by the latter gentleman, in addition to that of West, Copley, and some others of his countrymen, is an honourable testimony of the liberal encouragement which of late has been here given to the arts: an encouragement which has attracted hither so many of the ablest

ablest artists, as well from the new world, as from several parts of the old.

In the annotations which we have written, to accompany this Edition of M'Fingal, we have confined ourselves to the simple task of illustrating the allusions to such circumstances as appeared to us to be so far local and temporary, as to run the risk of being ill understood by the generality of English Readers. Indeed, so cautious have we been to keep within the strictest limits of our duty, that, on reviewing our work in the printed sheets, we are apprehensive of having erred on that side; and that many passages have escaped our notice, which ought to have been explained.

It is out of respect to the Reader, that we have denied ourselves the pleasure of dwelling on the particular beauties which must strike his attention in the course of the Poem, or of making any observations on such passages as require no explanation. Nor shall we attempt to give a character of the
work

work at large. Our labours in bringing it in this manner before the Public, in a country where nothing short of a high degree of poetical merit is sure to reward such labours, are a proof, that in our opinion, the work is deserving of their warmest approbation.

M'Fingal, by some readers, has been called *the American Hudibras*; but, without deviating from the principle laid down above, we may say that this comparison seems to have arisen merely from the *measure* and from the jingle of the double rhymes; but not from the style, manner, design, or tendency of the work. The style is uniformly far more elevated, and the manner more grave and majestic, than that of *Hudibras*,—but not so filled with those perpetual flashes of wit, which weary our risible faculties, without gratifying the mind with more durable impressions. The difference between the two Poems, in this respect, seems to be precisely that which we feel between the high and the low burlesque. As far as comparison will go in forming a judgment of *M'Fingal*, it appears

pears to us, in style and manner, much more like the *Dunciad* of Pope, than like any other Poem in our language. But in the design and tendency, it differs from the English *Hudibras* in a still greater degree. The object of Butler was, to ridicule republican principles, and to tickle the nation into good humour with arbitrary power; and perhaps we shall not pay him too great a compliment, when we attribute in a considerable degree to the influence of his writings, that adoration for Church and King, and that sovereign contempt for every idea of innovation from the side of liberty, which have distinguished the people of England, ever since the restoration of monarchy under Charles the Second. We believe the world has not furnished an instance, besides that of 1688, of a revolution, begun and conducted by the people, without their putting in any claim to better their condition, or to secure their rights. They seemed in that instance to be of Mr. Burke's opinion, That they had no rights; and to be ready to sacrifice their lives and fortunes in support of that opinion.

The

The object of Trumbull is directly the reverse ; it is to ridicule monarchy—to expose the absurd arguments and shallow subterfuges which are uniformly used, wherever it is attempted to be supported by reasoning ; and we believe every Reader will join us in this remark, that there is no Poem in any language where this design is kept up to so good effect. Though the ridicule falls in part upon the English nation ; yet we must observe that it is upon the nation organised in such a manner, as to render it capable of being dragged into the pursuit of objects which reason does not approve. It is the *government*, not the *people*, which excites the censure of the Poet ; and every honest man is put into good humour with himself, the moment he makes the distinction. He must likewise be pleased with the impartiality of the Author, in aiming the shafts of satire at whatever is censurable in both parties ; the extravagant zeal of the Whigs, as well as that of the Tories, is exposed without disguise to our disapprobation.

It is now fashionable in this country, among most classes of men, to condemn the American war, both in its object and its management; but they say the cruelties which were practised in it are now past; and to tell us any more about them, only serves to keep up a spirit of mutual aversion between the two nations. If we were precisely of this latter opinion, it might be an argument with us against bringing forward an English edition of M'Fingal, whatever be the poetical merit of the work. But we think the opinion ill-founded, if not directly the reverse of what the subject would naturally suggest. We think, that the more we learn of their sufferings, which the misguided policy of our government brought upon them, the more worthy we shall find them of our friendship, and ourselves of theirs; we shall both unite in a more cordial abhorrence of the principles and the men, who inflict such miseries on the human race. The principle of all offensive wars is nearly the same, it is of full-blood kin to the principle of monarchy; and to hold them perpetually up to the scrutiny

of reason, is greatly to benefit the world; as it tends to hasten that period, which we believe is not far distant, when both these principles will be discarded.

In this view, we regard the following Poem, not merely as a patriotic work, to be confined to America, but as a work of general philanthropy, highly conducive to moral virtue and universal peace.

Mr. Trumbull is known in his own country, for many other works of genius and utility, both in prose and verse. Early in life, while at the university, he published a satirical Poem, called *The Progress of Dullness*, in which he exposed, with great pleasantry and effect, the fopperies and follies attendant on the fashionable modes of education, both in males and females. In poetry, his genius is not confined to the burlesque; he published, in the year 1774, *An Elegy on the Times*, a Poem, which deplores with the highest energy and pathos, the menacing appearance of hostilities, which then seemed ready to

burst upon the Colonies from the obstinate folly of some leading characters in the Mother-country. In that work he foretold the event of the revolution in America, as a necessary consequence of our persisting in the measures then in agitation. By a variety of his prose writings after the war, he rendered essential service to his country, in preparing the minds of the people for a revision of their constitution, and for settling the present system of federal government in the United States. As a writer of extensive erudition, and accurate taste, the Reader, we presume, will assign him a distinguished rank, from the perusal of the Poem we here offer to the Public; the general estimation, in which he is held on the other side of the Atlantic, from the variety and moral tendency of his writings, may be seen in the following character given of him by another American Poet; who, in enumerating the most distinguished poetical writers of his country, places Mr. Trumbull at the head of the list.

“ With keen-ey’d glance thro’ Nature’s walks to pierce,
With all the powers and every charm of verse,

Each

Each science opening in his ample mind,
 His fancy glowing and his taste refin'd,
 See Trumbull lead the train. His skillful hand
 Hurls the keen darts of satire thro' the land ;
 Pride, knavery, dullness, feel his mortal stings,
 And listening virtue triumphs while he sings.
 Great Albion's sons, victorious now no more,
 In guilt retiring from the waisted shore,
 Strive their curst cruelties to hide in vain,—
 The world shall learn them from his deathless strain."

Vision of Columbus, Book VII.

In these lines there appears to be an allusion to many other writings, as well as to the work now before us. We are informed that the character of M'Fingal, his principle hero in this poem, was never applied to any particular person ; but that he stands as a representative of the Tory faction in general. The same is said of Honorius, the champion of the Whigs in the Town-meeting.

The *towns* are small divisions or districts, into which the State is divided ; in these the people meet for transacting public business, such as choosing representatives to the general Assembly, and Committees for various purposes,

purposes. In these meetings, political questions were discussed ; and in these originated the mode of opposition to those Acts of Parliament which were deemed oppressive.

The custom of erecting *Liberty-poles*, one of which furnishes the subject of the third Canto, seems to have been taken from the *May-poles*, which are found in some parts of England. These are said to have had a good effect in the beginning of the troubles in America ; as the opposition against their being erected and consecrated as an emblem of Liberty, determined the strength of the Tory party, in every little neighbourhood in the country.

The *scene of action*, which the Poet has in view, must be somewhere in the Province of Massachusetts ; but we are not able to designate the particular town. The *time* is evidently towards the latter end of summer, in the year 1775 ; as, by his allusions to military operations, it appears to be subsequent to the battle of Bunker-Hill, which was in
the

the month of June; and previous to Montgomery's Siege of St. John's, which was begun in October, of the same year.

THE Notes in this work, which have been written by the English Editors, are distinguished at the bottom, by *Edit.* Those that are not so marked, were inserted by the Author in the first edition; which was printed in Connecticut, in the year 1782.

M'FINGAL:

M' F I N G A L:

C A N T O F I R S T.

The Town-Meeting, A. M.

W H E N Yankies *, skill'd in martial rule,
First put the British troops to school;
Instructed them in warlike trade,
And new manœuvres of parade;
The true war-dance of Yanky-reels,
And *manual exercise* of heels;
Made them give up, like faints complete,
The arm of flesh, and trust the feet,

* *Yankies*, a term formerly of derision, but now merely
of distinction, given to the people of the four Eastern States.

Edit.

B

And

And work, like Christians undissembing,
 Salvation out, by fear and trembling ;
 Taught Percy fashionable races,
 And modern modes of Chevy-chaces * :
 From Boston, in his best array,
 Great 'Squire, M'Fingal, took his way,
 And, grac'd with ensigns of renown,
 Steer'd homeward to his native town.

His high descent our heralds trace
 To † Offian's famed Fingalian race ;
 For tho' their name some part may lack,
 Old Fingal spelt it with a Mac ;
 Which great M'Pherson, with submission,
 We hope will add, the next edition.

His fathers flourish'd in the Highlands
 Of Scotia's fog-benighted islands ;
 Whence gain'd our 'Squire two gifts by right,
 Rebellion and the Second-fight.
 Of these the first, in ancient days,
 Had gain'd the noblest palms of praise,

* Lord Percy, now Duke of Northumberland, commanded the party that was first opposed by the Americans at Lexington. This allusion to the family-renown of Chevy-Chace arose from the precipitate manner of his Lordship's quitting the field of battle, and returning to Boston. But the Poet will tell us the story in the course of the work. *Edit.*

† See Fingal, an ancient Epic Poem, published as the work of Offian, a Caledonian Bard, of the third century, by James M'Pherson, a Scotch ministerial scribbler.

'Gainst Kings stood forth, and many a crown'd head
With terror of its might confounded ;
Till rose a King with potent charm
His foes by goodness to disarm ;
Whom ev'ry Scot and Jacobite
Strait fell in love with—at first sight ;
Whose gracious speech, with aid of pensions,
Hush'd down all murmurs of dissensions,
And, with the sound of potent metal,
Brought all their blust'ring swarms to settle ;
Who rain'd his ministerial mannas,
Till loud Sedition sung Hosannas ;
The good Lords-Bishops and the Kirk
United in the public-work ;
Rebellion from the northern regions,
With Bute and Mansfield swore allegiance,
And all combin'd to raze as nuisance,
Of church and state, the constitutions ;
Pull down the empire, on whose ruins
They meant to edify their new ones ;
Enslave th' Amer'can wildernesses,
And tear the provinces in pieces.
For these our 'Squire, among the valiant'st,
Employ'd his time and tools and talents ;
And in their cause, with manly zeal,
Us'd his first virtue, to rebel ;
And found this new rebellion pleasing
As his old king-destroying treason.

Nor less avail'd his optic sleight,
And Scottish gift of second-sight.
No ancient sybil, fam'd in rhyme,
Saw deeper in the womb of time ;
No block in old Dodona's grove,
Could ever more orac'lar prove.
Nor only saw he all that was,
But much that never came to pass ;
Whereby all Prophets far out-went he,
Tho' former days produc'd a plenty :
For any man with half an eye,
What stands before him may espy ;
But optics sharp it needs, I ween,
To see what is not to be seen.
As in the days of ancient fame
Prophets and poets were the same,
And all the praise that poets gain
Is but for what th' invent and feign :
So gain'd our 'Squire his fame by seeing
Such things as never would have being.
Whence he for oracles was grown
The very * tripod of his town.
Gazettes no sooner rose a lye in,
But strait he fell to prophesying ;
Made dreadful slaughter in his course,
O'erthrew provincials, foot and horse ;

* The Tripod was a sacred three-legged stool, from which the ancient priests uttered their oracles.

Brought armies o'er, by sudden pressings,
Of Hanoverians, Swifs, and Hessians;
Feasted with blood his Scottish clan,
And hang'd all rebels, to a man ;
Divided their estates and pelf,
And took a goodly share himself *.
All this, with spirit energetic,
He did by second-sight prophetic.

Thus stor'd with intellectual riches,
Skill'd was our 'Squire in making speeches,
Where strength of brains united centers
With strength of lungs surpassing Stentor's.
But as some musquets so contrive it,
As oft to miss the mark they drive at,
And tho' well aim'd at duck or plover,
Bear wide, and kick their owners over :

* As the good Hero of this Poem seems a kind of god-son to the Editors, (they having undertaken to make him known in this foreign country,) they feel themselves much interested in whatever interests him. It is, therefore, with real concern that they find this prophecy, like some of the prayers of Homer's heroes, but half accomplished. The *Hanoverians*, &c. indeed, went over, and much were they *feasted with blood* ; but the *hanging of all the Rebels*, and the *dividing of their estates*, remain among the unfulfilled parts of his wise predictions. This, however, cannot be the fault of our Hero, but rather of our Minister, who left off the war before the work was completed.

Edit.

So far'd our 'Squire, whose reas'ning toil
Would often on himself recoil,
And so much injur'd more his side,
The stronger arg'ments he apply'd:
As old war-elephants, dismay'd,
Trode down the troops they came to aid,
And hurt their own side more in battle
Than less and ordinary cattle.
Yet at town-meetings ev'ry chief
Pinn'd faith on great M'Fingal's sleeve,
And, as he motion'd, all by rote
Rais'd sympathetic hands to vote.

The town, our Hero's scene of action,
Had long been torn by feuds of faction;
And as each party's strength prevails,
It turn'd up diff'rent, heads or tails;
With constant rattling in a trice
Show'd various sides, as oft as dice:
As that fam'd weaver, * wife t' Ulysses,
By night each day's-work pick'd in pieces;
And tho' she stoutly did bestir her,
Its finishing was ne'er the nearer:
So did this town with stedfast zeal
Weave cob-webs for the public weal,
Which when completed, or before,
A second vote in pieces tore.

* Homer's *Odyssey*.

They

They met, made speeches full long-winded,
 Resolv'd, protested, and rescinded;
 Addressees sign'd, then chose Committees,
 To stop all drinking of Bohea-teas *;
 With winds of doctrine veer'd about,
 And turn'd all Whig-Committees out.
 Meanwhile our Hero, as their head,
 In pomp the tory faction led,
 Still following, as the 'Squire should please,
 Successive on, like files of geese.

And now the town was summon'd, greeting,
 To grand parading of town-meeting;
 A show, that strangers might appall,
 As Rome's grave senate did the Gaul.
 High o'er the rout, on pulpit-stairs †,
 Like den of thieves in house of pray'rs,

* Some of our English readers may perhaps remember, that one of the subjects of dispute, which brought on the war, was a tax laid upon tea, on its importation into the Colonies. We have, therefore, only to inform them, that one of the weapons of opposition, made use of by the people, was a universal agreement, *not to drink any Tea, until the tax should be taken off*. The Committees, here referred to, were called *Committees of Safety*; part of their business was to watch over the execution of the voluntary regulations made by the people in the several towns. Edit.

† In country-towns the town-meeting is generally held in the Church. Edit.

(That

(That house, which loth a rule to break,
 Serv'd Heav'n but one day in the week,
 Open the rest for all supplies
 Of news and politics and lies,)
 Stood forth the constable, and bore
 His staff, like Merc'ry's wand of yore,
 Wav'd potent round, the peace to keep,
 As that laid dead men's souls to sleep.
 Above, and near th' Hermetic staff,
 The * moderator's upper half,
 In grandeur o'er the cushion bow'd,
 Like Sol half-seen behind a cloud.
 Beneath stood voters of all colours,
 Whigs, tories, orators, and bawlers,
 With ev'ry tongue in either faction,
 Prepar'd, like minute-men †, for action;
 Where truth and falsehood, wrong and right,
 Draw all their legions out to fight;
 With equal uproar, scarcely rave
 Opposing winds in Æolus' cave;
 Such dialogues with earnest face,
 Held never Balaam with his asfs.

* *Moderator* is the name commonly given to the chairman
 or speaker of the town-meeting. He is here seated in the
 pulpit.

Edit.

† *Minute-men* were that part of the militia of the country;
 who, being drafted and enrolled by themselves, were prepared
 to march at a minute's warning, where-ever the public safety
 required.

Edit.

With

With daring zeal and courage blest
Honorius first the crowd address'd;
When now our 'Squire, returning late,
Arriv'd to aid the grand debate,
With strange four faces sat him down,
While thus the orator went on:
"—For ages blest, thus Britain rose,
The terror of encircling foes;
Her heroes rul'd the bloody plain;
Her conqu'ring standard aw'd the main;
The diff'rent palms her triumphs grace,
Of arms in war, of arts in peace:
Unharra's'd by maternal care,
Each rising province flourish'd fair;
Whose various wealth with lib'ral hand,
By far o'er-paid the parent-land.
But tho' so bright her sun might shine,
'Twas quickly hast'ning to decline,
With feeble rays, too weak t' assuage,
The damps, that chill the eve of age."

"For states, like men, are doom'd as well
Th' infirmities of age to feel;
And from their diff'rent forms of empire,
Are seiz'd with ev'ry deep distemper.
Some states high fevers have made head in,
Which nought could cure but copious bleeding;
While others have grown dull and dozy,
Or fix'd in helpless idiocy;

Or turn'd demoniacs to belabour
 Each peaceful habitant and neighbour ;
 Or vex'd with hypocondriac fits,
 Have broke their strength and lost their wits."

" Thus now while hoary years prevail,
 Good Mother Britain seem'd to fail ;
 Her back bent, crippled with the weight
 Of age and debts and cares of state :
 For debts she ow'd, and those so large
 As twice her wealth could not discharge ;
 And now 'twas thought, so high they'd grown,
 She'd break, and come upon the town * ;
 Her arms, of nations once the dread,
 She scarce could lift above her head ;
 Her deafen'd ears ('twas all their hope)
 The final trump perhaps might ope,
 So long they'd been in stupid mood,
 Shut to the hearing of all good ;
 Grim Death had put her in his scroll,
 Down on the execution-roll ;
 And Gallic crows, as she grew weaker,
 Began to whet their beaks to pick her.

* *To come upon the town*, in America, does not mean precisely the same thing, as for a lady to come upon the town in London. It is like a poor person in England *coming upon the parish*, or becoming a public charge. This remark will serve to explain many other allusions to town-regulations in the course of this Poem.

Edit.

And

And now, her pow'rs decaying fast,
Her grand climact'ric had she past,
And, just like all old women else,
Fell in the vapours much by spells.
Strange whimsies on her fancy struck,
And gave her brain a dismal shock;
Her mem'ry fails, her judgment ends;
She quite forgot her nearest friends;
Lost all her former sense and knowledge,
And fitted fast for Beth'lem college;
Of all the pow'rs she once retain'd,
Conceit and pride alone remain'd.
As Eve, when falling, was so modest
To fancy she should grow a goddess;
As madmen, straw who long have slept on,
Will stile them, Jupiter or Neptune;
So Britain, 'midst her airs so flighty,
Now took a whim to be Almighty;
Urg'd on to desp'rate heights of frenzy,
Affirm'd her own Omnipotency*;
Would rather ruin all her race,
Than 'bate Supremacy an ace;
Assum'd all rights divine, as grown
The church's head, like good Pope Joan;

* See the act, declaring that the King and Parliament had
"a right to bind the colonies in all cases whatsoever."

Edit.

Swore all the world should bow and skip
To her almighty Goodyship ;
Anath'matiz'd each unbeliever,
And vow'd to live and rule for ever.
Her servants humour'd every whim,
And own'd, at once, her pow'r supreme,
Her follies pleas'd in all their stages,
For fake of legacies and wages ;
In * *Stephen's Chapel* then in state too
Set up her golden calf to pray to,
Proclaim'd its pow'r and right divine,
And call'd for worship at its shrine,
And for poor Heretics to burn us
Bade North prepare his fiery furnace ;
Struck bargains with the Romish churches
Infallibility to purchase ;
Set wide for Popery the door,
Made friends with Babel's scarlet whore,
Join'd both the matrons firm in clan ;
No sisters made a better span.
No wonder then, ere this was over,
That she should make her children suffer.
She first, without pretence of reason,
Claim'd right whate'er we had to seize on ;
And with determin'd resolution,
To put her claims in execution,

* The Parliament-House is called by that name.

Sent fire and sword, and call'd it, Lenity,
Starv'd us, and christen'd it, Humanity.
For she, her case grown desperater,
Mistook the plainest things in nature;
Had lost all use of eyes or wits;
Took slav'ry for the Bill of Rights;
Trembled at Whigs and deem'd them foes,
And stopp'd at loyalty her nose;
Stil'd her own children, brats and caitiffs,
And knew us not from th' Indian natives."

"What tho' with supplicating pray'r
We begg'd our lives and goods she'd spare;
Not vainer vows, with fillier call,
Elijah's prophets rais'd to Baal;
A worshipp'd stock of god, or goddess,
Had better heard and understood us.
So once Egyptians at the Nile
Ador'd their guardian Crocodile,
Who heard them first with kindest ear,
And ate them to reward their pray'r;
And could he talk, as kings can do,
Had made as gracious speeches too."

"Thus spite of pray'rs her schemes pursuing,
She still went on to work our ruin;
Annull'd our charters of releases,
And tore our title-deeds in pieces;
Then sign'd her warrants of ejection,
And gallows rais'd to stretch our necks on:

And

And on these errands sent in rage,
 Her bailiff, and her hangman, Gage *,
 And at his heels, like dogs to bait us,
 Dispatch'd her *Posse Comitatus*."

"No state e'er chose a fitter person,
 To carry such a silly farce on.
 As Heathen gods in ancient days
 Receiv'd at second-hand their praise,
 Stood imag'd forth in stones and stocks,
 And deified in barber's blocks;
 So Gage was chose to represent
 Th' omnipotence of Parliament.
 And as old heroes gain'd, by shifts,
 From gods, as poets tell, their gifts,
 Our Gen'ral, as his actions show,
 Gain'd like assistance from below,
 By Satan grac'd with full supplies,
 From all his magazine of lies.

* General Gage, commander in chief of the king's troops in North-America, was appointed in 1773 governor and vice-admiral of Massachusetts, in the room of Hutchinson, who had been the most active agent of the Minister in fomenting the disputes which brought on the war.

The character and conduct of Gage is described with great justice in the subsequent part of this speech of Honorius.

Edit.

Yet

Yet could his practice ne'er impart
The wit, to tell a lie with art.
Those lies alone are formidable,
Where artful truth is mixt with fable ;
But Gage has bungled oft so vilely,
No soul would credit lies so silly ;
Outwent all faith, and stretch'd beyond
Credulity's extremest end.
Whence plain it seems, tho' Satan once
O'erlook'd with scorn each brainless dunce,
And blund'ring brutes in Eden shunning,
Chose out the serpent for his cunning ;
Of late he is not half so nice,
Nor picks assistants, 'cause they're wise.
For had he stood upon perfection,
His present friends had lost th' election,
And far'd as hard in this proceeding,
As owls and asses did in Eden."

" Yet fools are often dang'rous enemies,
As meanest reptiles are most venomous ;
Nor e'er could Gage, by craft and prowess,
Have done a whit more mischief to us,
Since he began th' unnatural war,
The work his masters sent him for."

" And are there in this free-born land
Among ourselves a venal band,
A dastard race, who long have sold
Their souls and consciences for gold ;

Who

Who wish to stab their country's vitals,
 If they might heir surviving titles ;
 With joy behold our mischiefs brewing,
 Insult and triumph in our ruin ?
 Priests, who, if Satan should sit down,
 To make a Bible of his own,
 Would gladly, for the sake of mitres,
 Turn his inspir'd and sacred writers ;
 Lawyers, who, should he wish to prove
 His title t' his old seat above,
 Would, if his cause he'd give 'em fees in,
 Bring writs of *Entry sur dissein*,
 Plead for him boldly at the session,
 And hope to put him in possession ;
 Merchants, who, for his kindly aid,
 Would make him partners in their trade,
 Hang out their signs in goodly show,
 Inscrib'd with "*Belzebub and Co.*"
 And Judges, who would list his pages,
 For proper liveries and wages ;
 And who, as humbly cringe and bow
 To all his mortal servants now.
 There are ; and shame with pointing gestures,
 Marks out th' Addressers and Protesters* :

Whom,

* The *Addressers* were those who addressed General Gage, with expressions of gratitude and attachment, on his arrival with a fleet and army to subdue the colonies. The *Protesters* were

Whom, following down the stream of Fate,
 Contempts ineffable await,
 And public infamy forlorn,
 Dread hate and everlasting scorn."

As thus he spake, our 'Squire M^cFingal
 Gave to his partizans a signal.
 Not quicker roll'd the waves to land,
 When Moses wav'd his potent wand,
 Nor with more uproar, than the Tories
 Set up a gen'ral rout in chorus ;
 Laugh'd, hiss'd, hem'd, murmur'd, groan'd, and
 Honorius now could scarce be heard. [jeer'd,
 Our Muse amid th' increasing roar,
 Could not distinguish one word more :
 Tho' she sat by, in firm record
 To take in short-hand ev'ry word ;
 As ancient Muses wont, to whom
 Old Bards for depositions come ;
 Who must have writ 'em ; for how else
 Could they each speech *verbatim* tell 's ?
 And tho' some readers of romances
 Are apt to strain their tortur'd fancies,
 And doubt, when lovers all alone
 Their sad soliloquies do groan,
 Grieve many a page with no one near 'em,
 And nought but rocks and groves to hear 'em,
 were those who protested against the measures of the first Con-
 gress, and the general resolutions of the country.

What sprite infernal could have tattled,
And told the authors all they prattled;
Whence some weak minds have made objection,
That what they scribbled must be fiction;
'Tis false; for while the lovers spoke,
The Muse was by, with table-book;
And, lest some blunder might ensue,
Echo stood clerk, and kept the cue.
And tho' the speech ben't worth a groat,
As usual, 't isn't the author's fault,
But error merely of the prater,
Who should have talk'd to th' purpose better:
Which full excuse, my critic-brothers,
May help me out, as well as others;
And 'tis design'd, tho' here it lurk,
To serve as preface to this work.
So let it be—for now our 'Squire
No longer could contain his ire;
And rising 'midst applauding Tories,
Thus vented wrath upon Honorius.

Quoth he, "'Tis wond'rous what strange stuff
Your Whig's-heads are compounded of;
Which force of logic cannot pierce
Nor syllogistic *carte & tierce*,
Nor weight of scripture, or of reason,
Suffice to make the least impressiion.
Not heeding what ye rais'd contest on,
Ye prate, and beg or steal the question;

And

And when your boasted arguings fail,
Strait leave all reas'ning off, to rail.
Have not our High-Church Clergy made it
Appear from scriptures, which ye credit,
That *right divine* from heav'n, was lent
To kings, that is, the Parliament,
Their subjects to oppress and teaze,
And serve the Devil when they please?
Did they not write, and pray, and preach,
And torture all the parts of speech;
About Rebellion make a pother,
From one end of the land to th' other?
And yet gain'd fewer pros'lyte Whigs,
Than old * St. Anth'ny 'mongst the pigs;
And chang'd not half so many vicious
As Austin, when he preach'd to fishes;
Who throng'd to hear, the legend tells,
Were edified and wagg'd their tails:
But scarce you'd prove it, if you tried,
That e'er one Whig was edified.
Have ye not heard from † Parson Walter
Much dire presage of many a halter?
What warnings had ye of your duty
From our old Rev'rend † Sam. Auchmuty?

* The stories of St. Anthony and his pig, and St. Austin's preaching to fishes, are told in the Popish legends.

† High-Church Clergymen, one at Boston, one at New-York.

From Priests of all degrees and metres,
 T' our fag-end-man poor * Parson Peters?
 Have not our Cooper and our Seabury
 Sung hymns, like Barak and old Deborah;
 Prov'd all intrigues to set you free,
 Rebellion 'gainst *the pow'rs that be*;
 Brought over many a Scripture text
 That us'd to wink at rebel sects;
 Coax'd wayward ones to favour regents,
 Or paraphras'd them to obedience;
 Prov'd ev'ry king, ev'n those confess
 Horns of th' Apocalyptic beast,
 And sprouting from its noddles seven,
 Ordain'd, as bishops are, by Heaven;
 (For reasons sim'lar, as we're told,
 That Tophet was ordain'd of old;)
 By this lay-ordination valid
 Becomes all sanctified and hallow'd,
 Takes patent out when Heav'n has sign'd it,
 And starts up strait, the Lord's anointed?
 Like extreme unction, that can cleanse
 Each penitent from deadly sins,

* Peters, a Tory-Clergyman in Connecticut, who after making himself detestable by his inimical conduct, absconded from the contempt, rather than the vengeance of his countrymen, and fled to England to make complaints against that colony: Cooper, a writer, poet, and satyrist of the same stamp, President of the college at New-York; Seabury, a Clergyman of the same province.

Make

Make them run glib, when oil'd by Priest,
The heav'nly road, like wheels new greas'd,
Serve them, like shoeball, for defences
'Gainst wear and tear of consciences :
So king's anointment cleans betimes,
Like fuller's earth, all spots of crimes ;
For future knav'ries gives commissions,
Like Papists sinning under licence.
For Heav'n ordain'd the origin,
Divines declare, of pain and sin ;
Prove such great good they both have done us,
Kind mercy 'twas they came upon us :
For without pain and sin and folly
Man ne'er were blest, or wise, or holy ;
And we should * thank the Lord, 'tis so,
As authors grave wrote long ago.
Now Heav'n its issues never brings
Without the means, and these are kings ;
And he, who blames when they announce ills,
Would counteract th' eternal counsels.
As when the Jews, a murm'ring race,
By constant grumblings, fell from grace,
Heav'n taught them first to know their distance
By famine, flav'ry, and Philistines ;
When these could no repentance bring,
In wrath it sent them last a king :

* See the Modern Metaphysical Divinity.

So nineteen, 'tis believ'd, in twenty
 Of modern kings for plagues are sent you ;
 Nor can your cavillers pretend,
 But that they answer well their end.
 'Tis yours to yield to their command,
 As rods in Providence's hand ;
 And if it means to send you pain,
 You turn your noses up in vain ;
 Your only way's in peace to bear it,
 And make necessity a merit.
 Hence sure perdition must await
 The man who rises 'gainst the state,
 Who meets at once the damning sentence,
 Without one loop-hole for repentance ;
 E'en tho' he gain the royal fee,
 And rank among *the pow'rs that be* :
 For hell is theirs, the Scripture shows,
 Whoe'er *the pow'rs that be* oppose,
 And all those pow'rs (I am clear that 'tis so)
 Are damn'd for ever, *ex officio*."

" Thus far our Clergy ; but 'tis true,
 We lack'd not earthly reas'ners too.
 Had I the * Poet's brazen lungs
 As sound-board to his hundred tongues,

* Virgil's *Æneid*, 6th book, line 625.

I could not half the scribblers muster
 That swarm'd round Rivington * in cluster;
 Assemblies, Councilmen, forsooth;
 Brush, Cooper, Wilkins, Chandler, Booth.
 Yet all their arguments and sap'ence,
 You did not value at three half-pence.
 Did not our Massachusettensis †
 For your conviction strain his senses?
 Scrawl ev'ry moment he could spare,
 From cards and barbers and the fair;
 Show, clear as sun in noon-day heavens,
 You did not feel a single grievance;
 Demonstrate all your opposition
 Sprung from the ‡ eggs of foul sedition;
 Swear he had seen the nest she laid in,
 And knew how long she had been sitting;
 Could tell exact what strength of heat is
 Requir'd to hatch her out Committees;

* *Rivington*, Editor of the Royal Gazette in New York; a paper which answered very well to its title, it being filled with those impositions and falsehoods, which are deemed necessary to the support of Royalty, in any country where printing is tolerated. *Edit.*

† See a course of essays, under the signature of Massachusettensis.

‡ "Committees of Correspondence are the foulest and most venomous serpent, that ever issued from the eggs of sedition," &c.

Massachusettensis.

What

purposes. In these meetings, political questions were discussed ; and in these originated the mode of opposition to those Acts of Parliament which were deemed oppressive.

The custom of erecting *Liberty-poles*, one of which furnishes the subject of the third Canto, seems to have been taken from the *May-poles*, which are found in some parts of England. These are said to have had a good effect in the beginning of the troubles in America ; as the opposition against their being erected and consecrated as an emblem of Liberty, determined the strength of the Tory party, in every little neighbourhood in the country.

The *scene of action*, which the Poet has in view, must be somewhere in the Province of Massachusetts ; but we are not able to designate the particular town. The *time* is evidently towards the latter end of summer, in the year 1775 ; as, by his allusions to military operations, it appears to be subsequent to the battle of Bunker-Hill, which was in
the

the month of June; and previous to Montgomery's Siege of St. John's, which was begun in October, of the same year.

THE Notes in this work, which have been written by the English Editors, are distinguished at the bottom, by *Edit.* Those that are not so marked, were inserted by the Author in the first edition; which was printed in Connecticut, in the year 1782.

M'FINGAL:

M' F I N G A L:

C A N T O F I R S T.

The Town-Meeting, A. M.

WHEN Yankies *, skill'd in martial rule,
First put the British troops to school;
Instructed them in warlike trade,
And new manœuvres of parade;
The true war-dance of Yanky-reels,
And *manual exercise* of heels;
Made them give up, like faints complete,
The arm of flesh, and trust the feet,

* *Yankies*, a term formerly of derision, but now merely
of distinction, given to the people of the four Eastern States.

Edit.

And work, like Christians undissembing,
 Salvation out, by fear and trembling ;
 Taught Percy fashionable races,
 And modern modes of Chevy-chaces * :
 From Boston, in his best array,
 Great 'Squire, M'Fingal, took his way,
 And, grac'd with ensigns of renown,
 Steer'd homeward to his native town.

His high descent our heralds trace
 To † Ossian's famed Fingalian race ;
 For tho' their name some part may lack,
 Old Fingal spelt it with a Mac ;
 Which great M'Pherfon, with submission,
 We hope will add, the next edition.

His fathers flourish'd in the Highlands
 Of Scotia's fog-benighted islands ;
 Whence gain'd our 'Squire two gifts by right,
 Rebellion and the Second-fight.
 Of these the first, in ancient days,
 Had gain'd the noblest palms of praise,

* Lord Percy, now Duke of Northumberland, commanded the party that was first opposed by the Americans at Lexington. This allusion to the family-renown of Chevy-Chace arose from the precipitate manner of his Lordship's quitting the field of battle, and returning to Boston. But the Poet will tell us the story in the course of the work. *Edit.*

† See Fingal, an ancient Epic Poem, published as the work of Ossian, a Caledonian Bard, of the third century, by James M'Pherfon, a Scotch ministerial scribbler.

'Gainst Kings stood forth, and many a crown'd head
With terror of its might confounded ;
Till rose a King with potent charm
His foes by goodness to disarm;
Whom ev'ry Scot and Jacobite
Strait fell in love with—at first sight ;
Whose gracious speech, with aid of pensions,
Hush'd down all murmurs of dissensions,
And, with the sound of potent metal,
Brought all their blust'ring swarms to settle ;
Who rain'd his ministerial mannas,
Till loud Sedition sung Hosannas ;
The good Lords-Bishops and the Kirk
United in the public-work ;
Rebellion from the northern regions,
With Bute and Mansfield swore allegiance,
And all combin'd to raze as nuisance,
Of church and state, the constitutions ;
Pull down the empire, on whose ruins
They meant to edify their new ones ;
Enslave th' Amer'can wildernesses,
And tear the provinces in pieces.
For these our 'Squire, among the valiant'st,
Employ'd his time and tools and talents ;
And in their cause, with manly zeal,
Us'd his first virtue, to rebel ;
And found this new rebellion pleasing
As his old king-destroying treason.

Nor less avail'd his optic sleight,
 And Scottish gift of second-sight.
 No ancient fybil, fam'd in rhyme,
 Saw deeper in the womb of time ;
 No block in old Dodona's grove,
 Could ever more orac'lar prove.
 Nor only saw he all that was,
 But much that never came to pass ;
 Whereby all Prophets far out-went he,
 Tho' former days produc'd a plenty :
 For any man with half an eye,
 What stands before him may espy ;
 But optics sharp it needs, I ween,
 To see what is not to be seen.
 As in the days of ancient fame
 Prophets and poets were the same,
 And all the praise that poets gain
 Is but for what th' invent and feign :
 So gain'd our 'Squire his fame by seeing
 Such things as never would have being.
 Whence he for oracles was grown
 The very * tripod of his town.
 Gazettes no sooner rose a lye in,
 But strait he fell to prophesying ;
 Made dreadful slaughter in his course,
 O'erthrew provincials, foot and horse ;

* The Tripod was a sacred three-legged stool, from which the ancient priests uttered their oracles.

Brought armies o'er, by sudden pressings,
Of Hanoverians, Swifs, and Hessians;
Feasted with blood his Scottish clan,
And hang'd all rebels, to a man ;
Divided their estates and pelf,
And took a goodly share himself *.
All this, with spirit energetic,
He did by second-sight prophetic.

Thus stor'd with intellectual riches,
Skill'd was our 'Squire in making speeches,
Where strength of brains united centers
With strength of lungs surpassing Stentor's.
But as some musquets so contrive it,
As oft to miss the mark they drive at,
And tho' well aim'd at duck or plover,
Bear wide, and kick their owners over :

* As the good Hero of this Poem seems a kind of god-son to the Editors, (they having undertaken to make him known in this foreign country,) they feel themselves much interested in whatever interests him. It is, therefore, with real concern that they find this prophecy, like some of the prayers of Homer's heroes, but half accomplished. The *Hanoverians*, &c. indeed, went over, and much were they *feasted with blood* ; but the *hanging of all the Rebels*, and the *dividing of their estates*, remain among the unfulfilled parts of his wise predictions. This, however, cannot be the fault of our Hero, but rather of our Minister, who left off the war before the work was completed.

Edit.

So

So far'd our 'Squire, whose reas'ning toil
Would often on himself recoil,
And so much injur'd more his side,
The stronger arg'ments he apply'd:
As old war-elephants, dismay'd,
Trode down the troops they came to aid,
And hurt their own side more in battle
Than less and ordinary cattle.
Yet at town-meetings ev'ry chief
Pinn'd faith on great M'Fingal's sleeve,
And, as he motion'd, all by rote
Rais'd-sympathetic hands to vote.

The town, our Hero's scene of action,
Had long been torn by feuds of faction;
And as each party's strength prevails,
It turn'd up diff'rent, heads or tails;
With constant rattl'ing in a trice
Show'd various sides, as oft as dice:
As that fam'd weaver, * wife t' Ulysses,
By night each day's-work pick'd in pieces;
And tho' she stoutly did bestir her,
Its finishing was ne'er the nearer:
So did this town with stedfast zeal
Weave cob-webs for the public weal,
Which when completed, or before,
A second vote in pieces tore.

* Homer's *Odysses*.

They

They met, made speeches full long-winded,
 Resolv'd, protested, and rescinded;
 Addressee sign'd, then chose Committees,
 To stop all drinking of Bohea-teas *;
 With winds of doctrine veer'd about,
 And turn'd all Whig-Committees out.
 Meanwhile our Hero, as their head,
 In pomp the tory faction led,
 Still following, as the 'Squire should please,
 Successive on, like files of geese.

And now the town was summon'd, greeting,
 To grand parading of town-meeting;
 A show, that strangers might appall,
 As Rome's grave senate did the Gaul.
 High o'er the rout, on pulpit-stairs †,
 Like den of thieves in house of pray'rs,

* Some of our English readers may perhaps remember, that one of the subjects of dispute, which brought on the war, was a tax laid upon tea, on its importation into the Colonies. We have, therefore, only to inform them, that one of the weapons of opposition, made use of by the people, was a universal agreement, *not to drink any Tea, until the tax should be taken off*. The Committees, here referred to, were called *Committees of Safety*; part of their business was to watch over the execution of the voluntary regulations made by the people in the several towns.

Edit.

† In country-towns the town-meeting is generally held in the Church.

Edit.

(That

(That house, which loth a rule to break,
 Serv'd Heav'n but one day in the week,
 Open the rest for all supplies
 Of news and politics and lies,)
 Stood forth the constable, and bore
 His staff, like Merc'ry's wand of yore,
 Wav'd potent round, the peace to keep,
 As that laid dead men's souls to sleep.
 Above, and near th' Hermetic staff,
 The * moderator's upper half,
 In grandeur o'er the cushion bow'd,
 Like Sol half-seen behind a cloud.
 Beneath stood voters of all colours,
 Whigs, tories, orators, and bawlers,
 With ev'ry tongue in either faction,
 Prepar'd, like minute-men †, for action;
 Where truth and falsehood, wrong and right,
 Draw all their legions out to fight;
 With equal uproar, scarcely rave
 Opposing winds in Æolus' cave;
 Such dialogues with earnest face,
 Held never Balaam with his ass.

* *Moderator* is the name commonly given to the chairman
 or speaker of the town-meeting. He is here seated in the
 pulpit.

Edit.

† *Minute-men* were that part of the militia of the country;
 who, being drafted and enrolled by themselves, were prepared
 to march at a minute's warning, where-ever the public safety
 required.

Edit.

With

With daring zeal and courage blest
Honorius first the crowd address'd ;
When now our 'Squire, returning late,
Arriv'd to aid the grand debate,
With strange four faces sat him down,
While thus the orator went on:
"—For ages blest, thus Britain rose,
The terror of encircling foes ;
Her heroes rul'd the bloody plain ;
Her conqu'ring standard aw'd the main ;
The diff'rent palms her triumphs grace,
Of arms in war, of arts in peace :
Unharrafs'd by maternal care,
Each rising province flourish'd fair ;
Whose various wealth with lib'ral hand,
By far o'er-paid the parent-land.
But tho' so bright her sun might shine,
'Twas quickly hasting to decline,
With feeble rays, too weak t' assuage,
The damps, that chill the eve of age."

" For states, like men, are doom'd as well
Th' infirmities of age to feel ;
And from their diff'rent forms of empire,
Are seiz'd with ev'ry deep distemper.
Some states high fevers have made head in,
Which nought could cure but copious bleeding ;
While others have grown dull and dozy,
Or fix'd in helpless idiocy ;

Or turn'd demoniacs to belabour
 Each peaceful habitant and neighbour ;
 Or vex'd with hypocondriac fits,
 Have broke their strength and lost their wits."

" Thus now while hoary years prevail,
 Good Mother Britain seem'd to fail ;
 Her back bent, crippled with the weight
 Of age and debts and cares of state :
 For debts she ow'd, and those so large
 As twice her wealth could not discharge ;
 And now 'twas thought, so high they'd grown,
 She'd break, and come upon the town * ;
 Her arms, of nations once the dread,
 She scarce could lift above her head ;
 Her deafen'd ears ('twas all their hope)
 The final trump perhaps might ope,
 So long they'd been in stupid mood,
 Shut to the hearing of all good ;
 Grim Death had put her in his scroll,
 Down on the execution-roll ;
 And Gallic crows, as she grew weaker,
 Began to whet their beaks to pick her.

* *To come upon the town*, in America, does not mean precisely the same thing, as for a lady to come upon the town in London. It is like a poor person in England *coming upon the parish*, or becoming a public charge. This remark will serve to explain many other allusions to town-regulations in the course of this Poem.

Edit.

And

And now, her pow'rs decaying fast,
Her grand climact'ric had she past,
And, just like all old women else,
Fell in the vapours much by spells.
Strange whimsies on her fancy struck,
And gave her brain a dismal shock;
Her mem'ry fails, her judgment ends;
She quite forgot her nearest friends;
Lost all her former sense and knowledge,
And fitted fast for Beth'lem college;
Of all the pow'rs she once retain'd,
Conceit and pride alone remain'd.
As Eve, when falling, was so modest
To fancy she should grow a goddess;
As madmen, straw who long have slept on,
Will stile them, Jupiter or Neptune;
So Britain, 'midst her airs so flighty,
Now took a whim to be Almighty;
Urg'd on to desp'rate heights of frenzy,
Affirm'd her own Omnipotency*;
Would rather ruin all her race,
Than 'bate Supremacy an ace;
Assum'd all rights divine, as grown
The church's head, like good Pope Joan;

* See the act, declaring that the King and Parliament had
"a right to bind the colonies in all cases whatsoever."

Edit.

Swore all the world should bow and skip
To her almighty Goodyship;
Anath'matiz'd each unbeliever,
And vow'd to live and rule for ever.
Her servants humour'd every whim,
And own'd, at once, her pow'r supreme,
Her follies pleas'd in all their stages,
For sake of legacies and wages;
In * *Stephen's Chapel* then in state too
Set up her golden calf to pray to,
Proclaim'd its pow'r and right divine,
And call'd for worship at its shrine,
And for poor Heretics to burn us
Bade North prepare his fiery furnace;
Struck bargains with the Romish churches
Infallibility to purchase;
Set wide for Popery the door,
Made friends with Babel's scarlet whore,
Join'd both the matrons firm in clan;
No sisters made a better span.
No wonder then, ere this was over,
That she should make her children suffer.
She first, without pretence of reason,
Claim'd right whate'er we had to seize on;
And with determin'd resolution,
To put her claims in execution,

* The Parliament-House is called by that name.

Sent fire and sword, and call'd it, Lenity,
Starv'd us, and christen'd it, Humanity.
For she, her case grown desperater,
Mistook the plainest things in nature;
Had lost all use of eyes or wits;
Took slav'ry for the Bill of Rights;
Trembled at Whigs and deem'd them foes,
And stopp'd at loyalty her nose;
Stil'd her own children, brats and caitiffs,
And knew us not from th' Indian natives."

"What tho' with supplicating pray'r
We begg'd our lives and goods she'd spare;
Not vainer vows, with fillier call,
Elijah's prophets rais'd to Baal;
A worshipp'd stock of god, or goddess,
Had better heard and understood us.
So once Egyptians at the Nile
Ador'd their guardian Crocodile,
Who heard them first with kindest ear,
And ate them to reward their pray'r;
And could he talk, as kings can do,
Had made as gracious speeches too."

"Thus spite of pray'rs her schemes pursuing,
She still went on to work our ruin;
Annull'd our charters of releases,
And tore our title-deeds in pieces;
Then sign'd her warrants of ejection,
And gallows rais'd to stretch our necks on:

And

And on these errands sent in rage,
 Her bailiff, and her hangman, Gage *,
 And at his heels, like dogs to bait us,
 Dispatch'd her *Posse Comitatus*."

"No state e'er chose a fitter person,
 To carry such a silly farce on.
 As Heathen gods in ancient days
 Receiv'd at second-hand their praise,
 Stood imag'd forth in stones and stocks,
 And deified in barber's blocks ;
 So Gage was chose to represent
 Th' omnipotence of Parliament.
 And as old heroes gain'd, by shifts,
 From gods, as poets tell, their gifts,
 Our Gen'ral, as his actions show,
 Gain'd like assistance from below,
 By Satan grac'd with full supplies,
 From all his magazine of lies.

* General Gage, commander in chief of the king's troops in North-America, was appointed in 1773 governor and vice-admiral of Massachusetts, in the room of Hutchinson, who had been the most active agent of the Minister in fomenting the disputes which brought on the war.

The character and conduct of Gage is described with great justice in the subsequent part of this speech of Honorius.

Edit.

Yet

Yet could his practice ne'er impart
The wit, to tell a lie with art.
'Those lies alone are formidable,
Where artful truth is mixt with fable ;
But Gage has bungled oft so vilely,
No soul would credit lies so silly ;
Outwent all faith, and stretch'd beyond
Credulity's extremest end.

Whence plain it seems, tho' Satan once
O'erlook'd with scorn each brainless dunce,
And blund'ring brutes in Eden shunning,
Chose out the serpent for his cunning ;
Of late he is not half so nice,
Nor picks assistants, 'cause they're wise.
For had he stood upon perfection,
His present friends had lost th' election,
And far'd as hard in this proceeding,
As owls and asses did in Eden."

" Yet fools are often dang'rous enemies,
As meanest reptiles are most venomous ;
Nor e'er could Gage, by craft and prowess,
Have done a whit more mischief to us,
Since he began th' unnatural war,
The work his masters sent him for."

" And are there in this free-born land
Among ourselves a venal band,
A dastard race, who long have sold
Their souls and consciences for gold ;

Who

Who wish to stab their country's vitals,
 If they might heir surviving titles ;
 With joy behold our mischiefs brewing,
 Insult and triumph in our ruin ?
 Priests, who, if Satan should sit down,
 To make a Bible of his own,
 Would gladly, for the sake of mitres,
 Turn his inspir'd and sacred writers ;
 Lawyers, who, should he wish to prove
 His title t' his old seat above,
 Would, if his cause he'd give 'em fees in,
 Bring writs of *Entry sur dissein*,
 Plead for him boldly at the session,
 And hope to put him in possession ;
 Merchants, who, for his kindly aid,
 Would make him partners in their trade,
 Hang out their signs in goodly show,
 Inscrub'd with "*Belzebub and Co.*"
 And Judges, who would list his pages,
 For proper liveries and wages ;
 And who, as humbly cringe and bow
 To all his mortal servants now.
 There are ; and shame with pointing gestures,
 Marks out th' Addressers and Protesters* :

Whom,

* The *Addressers* were those who addressed General Gage, with expressions of gratitude and attachment, on his arrival with a fleet and army to subdue the colonies. The *Protesters*

Whom, following down the stream of Fate,
 Contempts ineffable await,
 And public infamy forlorn,
 Dread hate and everlasting scorn."

As thus he spake, our 'Squire M^cFingal
 Gave to his partizans a signal.
 Not quicker roll'd the waves to land,
 When Moses wav'd his potent wand,
 Nor with more uproar, than the Tories
 Set up a gen'ral rout in chorus;
 Laugh'd, hiss'd, hem'd, murmur'd, groan'd, and
 Honorius now could scarce be heard. [jeer'd,
 Our Muse amid th' increasing roar,
 Could not distinguish one word more:
 Tho' she sat by, in firm record
 To take in short-hand ev'ry word;
 As ancient Muses wont, to whom
 Old Bards for depositions come;
 Who must have writ 'em; for how else
 Could they each speech *verbatim* tell 's?
 And tho' some readers of romances
 Are apt to strain their tortur'd fancies,
 And doubt, when lovers all alone
 Their sad soliloquies do groan,
 Grieve many a page with no one near 'em,
 And nought but rocks and groves to hear 'em,
 were those who protested against the measures of the first Con-
 gress, and the general resolutions of the country.

Edit.

D

What

What sprite infernal could have tattled,
And told the authors all they prattled;
Whence some weak minds have made objection,
That what they scribbled must be fiction;
'Tis false; for while the lovers spoke,
The Muse was by, with table-book;
And, lest some blunder might ensue,
Echo stood clerk, and kept the cue.
And tho' the speech ben't worth a groat,
As usual, 'tisn't the author's fault,
But error merely of the prater,
Who should have talk'd to th' purpose better:
Which full excuse, my critic-brothers,
May help me out, as well as others;
And 'tis design'd, tho' here it lurk,
To serve as preface to this work.
So let it be—for now our 'Squire
No longer could contain his ire;
And rising 'midst applauding Tories,
Thus vented wrath upon Honorius.

Quoth he, "'Tis wond'rous what strange stuff
Your Whig's-heads are compounded of;
Which force of logic cannot pierce
Nor syllogistic *carte & tierce*,
Nor weight of scripture, or of reason,
Suffice to make the least impresson.
Not heeding what ye rais'd contest on,
Ye prate, and beg or steal the question;

And

And when your boasted arguings fail,
Strait leave all reas'ning off, to rail.
Have not our High-Church Clergy made it
Appear from scriptures, which ye credit,
That *right divine* from heav'n, was lent
To kings, that is, the Parliament,
Their subjects to oppress and teaze,
And serve the Devil when they please?
Did they not write, and pray, and preach,
And torture all the parts of speech;
About Rebellion make a pother,
From one end of the land to th' other?
And yet gain'd fewer pros'lyte Whigs,
Than old * St. Anth'ny 'mongst the pigs;
And chang'd not half so many vicious
As Austin, when he preach'd to fishes;
Who throng'd to hear, the legend tells,
Were edified and wagg'd their tails:
But scarce you'd prove it, if you tried,
That e'er one Whig was edified.
Have ye not heard from † Parson Walter
Much dire presage of many a halter?
What warnings had ye of your duty
From our old Rev'rend † Sam. Auchmuty?

* The stories of St. Anthony and his pig, and St. Austin's preaching to fishes, are told in the Popish legends.

† High-Church Clergymen, one at Boston, one at New-York.

From Priests of all degrees and metres,
 'T' our fag-end-man poor * Parson Peters?
 Have not our Cooper and our Seabury
 Sung hymns, like Barak and old Deborah;
 Prov'd all intrigues to set you free,
 Rebellion 'gainst *the pow'rs that be*;
 Brought over many a Scripture text
 That us'd to wink at rebel sects;
 Coax'd wayward ones to favour regents,
 Or paraphras'd them to obedience;
 Prov'd ev'ry king, ev'n those confess
 Horns of th' Apocalyptic beast,
 And sprouting from its noddles seven,
 Ordain'd, as bishops are, by Heaven;
 (For reasons sim'lar, as we're told,
 That Tophet was ordain'd of old;)
 By this lay-ordination valid
 Becomes all sanctified and hallow'd,
 Takes patent out when Heav'n has sign'd it,
 And starts up strait, the Lord's anointed?
 Like extreme unction, that can cleanse
 Each penitent from deadly sins,

* Peters, a Tory-Clergyman in Connecticut, who after making himself detestable by his inimical conduct, absconded from the contempt, rather than the vengeance of his countrymen, and fled to England to make complaints against that colony: Cooper, a writer, poet, and satyrist of the same stamp, President of the college at New-York; Seabury, a Clergyman of the same province.

Make

Make them run glib, when oil'd by Priest,
The heav'nly road, like wheels new greas'd,
Serve them, like shoeball, for defences
'Gainst wear and tear of consciences :
So king's anointment cleans betimes,
Like fuller's earth, all spots of crimes ;
For future knav'ries gives commissions,
Like Papists sinning under licence.
For Heav'n ordain'd the origin,
Divines declare, of pain and sin ;
Prove such great good they both have done us,
Kind mercy 'twas they came upon us :
For without pain and sin and folly
Man ne'er were blest, or wise, or holy ;
And we should * ~~thank~~ the Lord, 'tis so,
As authors grave wrote long ago.
Now Heav'n its issues never brings
Without the means, and these are kings ;
And he, who blames when they announce ills,
Would counteract th' eternal counsels.
As when the Jews, a murm'ring race,
By constant grumblings, fell from grace,
Heav'n taught them first to know their distance
By famine, flav'ry, and Philistines ;
When these could no repentance bring,
In wrath it sent them last a king :

* See the Modern Metaphysical Divinity.

So nineteen, 'tis believ'd, in twenty
Of modern kings for plagues are sent you;
Nor can your cavillers pretend,
But that they answer well their end.
'Tis yours to yield to their command,
As rods in Providence's hand;
And if it means to send you pain,
You turn your noses up in vain;
Your only way's in peace to bear it,
And make necessity a merit.
Hence sure perdition must await
The man who rises 'gainst the state,
Who meets at once the damning sentence,
Without one loop-hole for repentance;
E'en tho' he gain the royal fee,
And rank among *the pow'rs that be* :
For hell is theirs, the Scripture shows,
Whoe'er *the pow'rs that be* oppose,
And all those pow'rs (I am clear that 'tis so)
Are damn'd for ever, *ex officio*."

"Thus far our Clergy; but 'tis true,
We lack'd not earthly reas'ners too.
Had I the * Poet's brazen lungs
As sound-board to his hundred tongues,

* Virgil's *Æneid*, 6th book, line 625.

I could not half the scribblers muster
 That swarm'd round Rivington * in cluster;
 Assemblies, Councilmen, forsooth;
 Brush, Cooper, Wilkins, Chandler, Booth.
 Yet all their arguments and sap'ence,
 You did not value at three half-pence.
 Did not our Massachusettensis †
 For your conviction strain his senses?
 Scrawl ev'ry moment he could spare,
 From cards and barbers and the fair;
 Show, clear as sun in noon-day heavens,
 You did not feel a single grievance;
 Demonstrate all your opposition
 Sprung from the ‡ eggs of foul sedition;
 Swear he had seen the nest she laid in,
 And knew how long she had been sitting;
 Could tell exact what strength of heat is
 Requir'd to hatch her out Committees;

* *Rivington*, Editor of the Royal Gazette in New York; a paper which answered very well to its title, it being filled with those impositions and falsehoods, which are deemed necessary to the support of Royalty, in any country where printing is tolerated. *Edit.*

† See a course of essays, under the signature of Massachusettensis.

‡ "Committees of Correspondence are the foulest and most venomous serpent, that ever issued from the eggs of sedition,"
 &c. Massachusettensis.

What

What shapes they take, and how much longer's
The space before they grow t' a Congress?
New white-wash'd Hutchinson, and varnish'd
Our Gage, who'd got a little tarnish'd;
Made 'em new masks, in time no doubt,
For Hutchinson's was quite worn out;
And while he muddled all his head,
You did not heed a word he said.
Did not our grave * Judge Sewall hit
The summit of news-paper wit?
Fill'd ev'ry leaf of ev'ry paper
Of Mills, and Hicks, and Mother Draper:
Drew proclamations, works of toil,
In true sublime of scare-crow style;
Wrote farces too, 'gainst Sons of Freedom,
All for your good, and none would read 'em;
Denounc'd damnation on their frenzy,
Who died in Whig-impenitency;
Affirm'd that Heav'n would lend us aid,
As all our Tory-writers said;
And calculated so its kindness,
He told the moment when it join'd us."

* Attorney-General of Massachusetts-Bay, a Judge of Admiralty, Gage's chief Advertiser and Proclamation-maker, author of a farce called the Americans Rouzed, and of a great variety of essays on the Ministerial side, in the Boston news-papers.

“ 'Twas then belike, Honorius cried,
When you the public fast defied,
Refus'd to Heav'n to raise a prayer,
Because you'd no connections there :
And since, with rev'rent hearts and faces,
To Governors you'd made addresses,
In them who made you Tories, seeing
You liv'd and mov'd and had your being ;
Your humble vows you would not breathe
To pow'rs you'd no acquaintance with.”

“ As for your fasts, replied our 'Squire,
What circumstance could fasts require ?
We kept them not, but 'twas no crime ;
We held them merely loss of time.
For what advantage, firm and lasting,
Pray, did you ever get by fasting ?
And what the gains that can arise
From vows and off'rings to the skies ?
Will Heav'n reward with posts and fees,
Or send us Tea, as Consignees *,
Give pensions, sal'ries, places, bribes,
Or chuse us judges, clerks, or scribes ?
Has it commissions in its gift,
Or cash, to serve us at a list ?

* Alluding to the famous cargo of tea, which was sunk in Boston Harbour, the Consignees of which were the tools of General Gage.

Edit.

Are acts of parliament there made,
To carry on the placeman's trade?
Or has it pass'd a single bill
To let us plunder whom we will?
And look our list of place-men all over;
Did Heav'n appoint our chief judge, Oliver,
Fill that high bench with ignoramus;
Or has it councils by mandamus?
Who made that wit of * water-gruel,
A Judge of Admiralty, Sewall?
And were they not mere earthly struggles,
That rais'd up Murray, say, and Ruggles?
Did Heav'n send down, our pains to med'cine,
That old simplicity of Edson;
Or by election pick out from us,
That Marshfield blund'rer Nat. Ray Thomas:
Or had it any hand in serving
A Loring, Pepp'rell, Browne, or Erving?"
" Yet we've some saints, the very thing,
We'll pit against the best you'll bring.
For can the strongest fancy paint
Than Hutchinson a greater saint?
Was there a parson us'd to pray
At times more reg'lar twice a day;
As folks exact have dinners got,
Whether they've appetites or not?

* A proper emblem of his genius.

Was there a zealot more alarming
'Gainst public vice to hold forth sermon ;
Or fix'd at church, whose inward motion
Roll'd up his eyes with more devotion ?
What Puritan could ever pray
In Godlier tone, than treas'rer * Gray,
Or at town-meetings speechify'ng,
Could utter more melodious whine,
And shut his eyes and vent his moan,
Like owl afflicted in the sun ?
Who, once sent home his canting rival,
Lord Dartmouth's self, might out-be-drivel."

" Have you forgot, Honourous cried,
How your prime faint the truth defied †,
Affirm'd he never wrote a line
Your charter'd rights to undermine ;
When his own letters then were by,
That prov'd his message all a lie ?
How many promises he seal'd,
To get th' oppressive acts repeal'd ;
Yet, once arriv'd on England's shore,
Set on the Premier to pass more ?
But these are no defects, we grant,
In a right loyal Tory faint,

* Treasurer of Massachusetts-Bay, and one of the Mandamus Council.

† The detection of falsehood in Governor Hutchinson, here alluded to, is a curious little history. It is told at large in *The Remembrancer*, published by Almon, Vol. I. *Edit.*

Whose godlike virtues must with ease
Atone such venal crimes as these:
Or ye perhaps in Scripture spy
A new commandment, "Thou shalt lie;"
And if 't be so (as who can tell?)
There's no one sure ye keep so well."
"Quoth he, For lies and promise breaking
Ye need not be in such a taking;
For lying is, we know and teach,
The highest privilege of speech;
The universal Magna Charta,
To which all human race is party;
Whence children first, as David says,
Lay claim to 't in their earliest days;
The only stratagem in war
Our Gen'als have occasion for;
The only freedom of the press
Our politicians need in peace:
And 'tis a shame you wish t' abridge us
Of these our darling privileges.
Thank heav'n, your shot have miss'd their aim,
For lying is no sin, or shame."

"As men last wills may change again,
Tho' drawn in name of God, Amen;
Befure they must have much the more,
O'er promises as great a pow'r,
Which, made in haste, with small inspection,
So much the more will need correction;

And

And when they've careless spoke, or penn'd 'em,
Have right to look 'em o'er and mend 'em;
Revise their vows, or change the text,
By way of codicil annex'd,
Turn out a promise, that was base,
And put a better in its place.
So Gage of late agreed, you know,
To let the Boston people go;
Yet when he saw 'gainst troops that brav'd him,
They were the only guards that sav'd him,
Kept off that Satan of a Putnam *,
From breaking in to maul and mutt'n him:
He'd too much wit such leagues t' observe,
And shut them in again to starve."

" So Moses writes, when female Jews
Made oaths and vows unfit for use,
Their parents then might set them free
From that consc'entious tyranny:
And shall men feel that spir'tual bondage
For ever, when they grow beyond age;
Nor have pow'r their own oaths to change?
I think the tale were very strange.

* General Putnam of Connecticut, who had gained great reputation as a Partizan officer in the war before last, came forward with activity in the beginning of the war of independence; but his age and infirmities obliged him soon to quit the field.

Edit.

Shall

Shall vows but bind the stout and strong,
And let go women weak and young,
As nets enclose the larger crew,
And let the smaller fry creep thro' ?
Besides, the Whigs have all been set on,
The Tories to affright and threaten,
Till Gage, amidst his trembling fits,
Has hardly kept him in his wits ;
And tho' he speak with art and finesse,
'Tis said beneath *durefs per minas*.
For we're in peril of our souls
From feathers, tar and lib'rty-poles :
And vows extorted are not binding
In law, and so not worth the minding.
For we have in this hurly-burly
Sent off our consciences on furlow ;
Thrown our religion o'er in form,
Our ship to lighten in the storm.
Nor need we blush your Whigs before ;
If we've no virtue, you've no more."

" Yet black with sins, would stain a mitre,
Rail ye at crimes by ten tints whiter ?
And, stuff'd with choler atrabilious,
Insult us here for peccadilloes ?
While all your vices run so high
That mercy scarce could find supply :
While, should you offer to repent ;
You'd need more fasting days than Lent,

More groans than haunted church-yard vallies,
And more confessions than broad-alleys *.
I'll show you all at fitter time,
Th' extent and greatness of your crime,
And here demonstrate to your face,
Your want of virtue, as of grace,
Evinc'd from topics old and recent :
But thus much must suffice at present.
To th' after portion of the day,
I leave what more remains to say ;
When I've good hope you'll all appear,
More fitted and prepar'd to hear,
And griev'd for all your vile demeanour :
But now 'tis time t' adjourn for dinner."

* Alluding to a species of church-discipline, where a person is obliged to stand in an ile of the church, called the *broad-alley*, name the offence of which he has been guilty, and ask pardon of his brethren. *Edit.*

M ' F I N G A L :

CANTO SECOND.

The Town-Meeting, P. M.

THE Sun, who never stops to dine,
Two hours had pass'd the mid-way line,
And driving at his usual rate,
Lash'd on his downward car of state.
And now expir'd the short vacation,
And dinner done in epic fashion ;
While all the crew beneath the trees,
Eat pocket-pies, or bread and cheese ;
Nor shall we, like old Homer, care
To verify the bill of fare.
For now each party, feasted well,
Throng'd in, like sheep, at sound of bell,
With equal spirit took their places ;
And meeting op'd with three Oh yesses :

When

When first the daring Whigs t' oppose,
Again the great M'Fingal rose,
Strech'd magisterial arm amain,
And thus assum'd th' accusing strain.

“ Ye Whigs attend, and hear, affrighted,
The crimes whereof ye stand indicted;
The sins and folly past all compass,
That prove you guilty, or *non-compos*.
I leave the verdict to your senses,
And jury of your consciences;
Which, tho' they're neither good nor true,
Must yet convict you and your crew.
Ungrateful sons! a factious band,
That rise against your parent-land!
Ye viper race, that burst in strife
The welcome womb that gave you life,
Tear with sharp fangs and forked tongue,
Th' indulgent bowels, whence you sprung;
And scorn the debt of obligation
You justly owe the British nation,
Which since you cannot pay, your crew
Affect to swear 'twas never due.

“ Did not the deeds of England's Primate *
First drive your fathers to this climate,
Whom jails, and fines, and ev'ry ill
Forc'd to their good against their will?

* The persecutions of the English Church under Archbishop Laud, are well known to have been the cause of the peopling of New-England.

Ye owe to their obliging temper
 The peopling your new-fangled empire,
 While ev'ry British act and canon
 Stood forth, you *causa sine qua non*.
 Did they not send you charters o'er,
 And give you lands you own'd before,
 Permit you all to spill your blood,
 And drive out heathen where you could ;
 On these mild terms, that, conquest won,
 The realm you gain'd should be their own ?
 Or when of late attack'd by those,
 Whom her connection made your foes *,
 Did they not then, distressed in war,
 Send Gen'als to your help from far,
 Whose aid you own'd in terms less haughty,
 And thankfully o'erpaid your quota ?
 Say, at what period did they grudge
 To send you Governor or Judge,
 With all their missionary crew †,
 To teach you law and gospel too ?

* The war of 1755, between the English and the French, was doubtless excited by circumstances foreign to the interests of those colonies which now form the United States. Those colonies, however, paid more than their proportion of the expence, and the balance was repaid by our government after the war.

Edit.

† The *missionaries* were clergymen, ordained by the Bishop of London, and settled in America. Those in the northern Colonies were generally attached to the Royal cause.

Edit.

Brought

Brought o'er all felons in the nation,
To help you on in population ;
Propos'd their Bishops to surrender,
And made their Priests a legal tender,
Who only ask'd, in surplice clad,
The simple tythe of all you had :
And now to keep all knaves in awe,
Have sent their troops t' establish law,
And with gunpowder, fire, and ball,
Reform your people one and all.
Yet, when their insolence and pride
Have anger'd all the world beside,
When fear and want at once invade,
Can you refuse to lend them aid ;
And rather risque your heads in fight,
Than gratefully throw in your mite ?
Can they for debts make satisfaction,
Should they dispose their realm by auction ;
And sell of Britain's goods and land all
To France and Spain by inch of candle ?
Shall good king George, with want oppress'd,
Insert his name in bankrupt list,
And shut up shop, like failing merchant,
That fears the bailiffs should make search in't ;
With poverty shall princes strive,
And nobles lack whereon to live ?
Have they not rack'd their whole inventions,
To feed their brats on posts and pensions,

Made ev'n Scotch friends with taxes groan,
And pick'd poor Ireland to the bone;
Yet have on hand, as well deserving,
Ten thousand bastards left for starving?
And can you now, with conscience clear,
Refuse them an asylum here,
Or not maintain in manner fitting,
These genuine sons of Mother Britain?
T' evade these crimes of blackest grain,
You prate of Liberty in vain,
And strive to hide your vile designs,
With terms abstruse, like school-divines.

“ Your boasted patriotism is scarce,
And country's love is but a farce:
And after all the proofs you bring,
We Tories know there's no such thing;
Our English writers of great fame
Prove public virtue but a name.
Hath not * Dalrymple show'd in print,
And * Johnson too, there's nothing in't?
Produc'd you demonstration ample,
From other's and their own example,
That self is still, in either faction,
The only principle of action;
The loadstone, whose attracting tether
Keeps the politic world together:
And, 'spite of all your double-dealing,
We Tories know 'tis so, by feeling.

* Ministerial Pensioners.

“ Who

“ Who heeds your babbling of transmitting
Freedom to brats of your begetting,
Or will proceed as though there were a tie,
Or obligation to posterity?

We get 'em, bear 'em, breed and nurse;
What has post'rity done for us,
'That we, lest they their rights should lose,
Should trust our necks to gripe of noose?

“ And who believes you will not run?
You're cowards, ev'ry mother's son;
And should you offer to deny,
We've witnesses to prove it by.
Attend th' opinion first, as referee,
Of your old Gen'ral, stout Sir Jeffery *,
Who swore that with five thousand foot
He'd rout you all, and, in pursuit,
Run thro' the land as easily,
As camel thro' a needle's eye.
Did not the valiant Col'nel Grant
Against your courage make his slant,
Affirm your universal failure
In ev'ry principle of valour,
And swear no scamp'ers e'er could match you,
So swift, a bullet scarce could catch you?
And will ye not confess in this,
A judge most competent he is,
Well skill'd on runnings to decide,
As what himself has often tried?

* Sir Jeffery, now Lord Amherst.

'Twould not, methinks, be labour lost,
 If you'd sit down and count the cost;
 And ere you call your Yankies out,
 First think what work you've set about.
 Have ye not rouz'd, his force to try on,
 That grim old beast, the British lion?
 And know you not that at a sup
 He's large enough to eat you up?
 Have you survey'd his jaws beneath,
 Drawn inventories of his teeth,
 Or have you weigh'd in even balance
 His strength and magnitude of talons?
 His roar would turn your boasts to fear,
 As easily as four small-beer,
 And make your feet from dreadful fray,
 By native instinct, run away.
 Britain, depend on't, will take on her
 T' assert her dignity and honor,
 And ere she'd lose your share of pelf,
 Destroy your country and herself.
 For has not North declar'd they fight
 To gain substantial rev'nue by't,
 Denied he'd ever deign to treat,
 'Till on your knees, and at his feet?
 And feel you not a trifling ague,
 From Van's *Delenda est Carthago**?

* Alluding, as the Editors suppose, to a speech in the British Parliament, in which *delenda est Carthago* was applied to America.

Edit.

For

For this, now Britain has come to't,
Think you she has not means to do't?
Has she not set to work all engines
To spirit up the native Indians,
Send on your backs a savage band,
With each a hatchet in his hand,
T' amuse themselves with scalping knives,
And butcher children and your wives ;
That she may boast again with vanity,
Her English national humanity ?
(For now in its primæval sense,
This term, *human'ty*, comprehends
All things of which, on this side hell,
The *human mind* is capable ;
And thus 'tis well, by writers sage,
Applied to Britain and to Gage.)
And on this work to raise allies,
She sent her duplicate of Guys,
To drive, at diff'rent parts at once, on
Her stout Guy Carleton and Guy Johnson ;
To each of whom, to send again ye
Old Guy of Warwick were a ninny ;
Tho' the dun cow he fell'd in war,
These kill-cows are his betters far.

“ And has she not assay'd her notes,
To rouse your slaves to cut your throats,
Sent o'er ambassadors with guineas,
To bribe your blacks in Carolinas ?

And has not Gage, her missionary,
Turn'd many an Afric slave t' a Tory,
And made th' Amer'can bishop's fee grow,
By many a new-converted Negro?
As friends to gov'nment did not he
Their slaves at Boston late set free;
Enlist them all in black parade,
Set off with regimental red?
And were they not accounted then
Among his very bravest men?
And when such means she stoops to take,
Think you she is not wide awake?
As Eliphaz' good man in Job
Own'd num'rous allies thro' the globe;
Had brought the * stones along the street
To ratify a cov'nant meet,
And every beast from lice to lions,
To join in leagues of strict alliance:
Has she not cring'd, in spite of pride,
For like assistance far and wide?
Was there a creature so despis'd,
Its aid she has not sought and priz'd?
Till all this formidable league rose
Of Indians, British troops, and Negroes,

* The stones, and all the elements with thee
Shall ratify a strict confed'racy;
Wild beasts their savage temper shall forget,
And for a firm alliance with thee treat: &c.

Blackmore's Paraphrase of Job.

And

And can you break these triple bands
By all your workmanship of hands?"

"Sir, quoth Honorius, we presume
You guess from past feats, what's to come,
And from the mighty deeds of Gage,
Foretell how fierce the war he'll wage.
You, doubtless, recollected here
The annals of his first great year:
While wearying out the Tories' patience,
He spent his breath in proclamations;
While all his mighty noise and vapour
Was us'd in wrangling upon paper;
And boasted military fits
Clos'd in the straining of his wits;
While troops in Boston commons plac'd
Laid nought but quires of paper waste;
While strokes alternate stunn'd the nation,
Protest, address, and proclamation;
And speech met speech, fib clash'd with fib,
And Gage still answer'd, squib for squib.

"Tho' this not all his time was lost on,
He fortified the town of Boston;
Built breast-works that might lend assistance
To keep the patriots at a distance;
(For howsoe'er the rogues might scoff,
He lik'd them best the farthest off;)
Of mighty use and help to aid
His courage, when he felt afraid;

G

And

And whence right off in manful station,
He'd boldly pop his proclamation.

Our hearts must in our bosoms freeze
At such heroic deeds as these."

" Vain, quoth the 'Squire, you'll find to sneer
At Gage's first triumphant year ;
For Providence, dispos'd to teaze us,
Can use what instruments it pleases.
To pay a tax at Peter's wish,
His chief cashier was once a Fish ;
An Ass, in Balaam's sad disaster,
Turn'd orator, and sav'd his master ;
A Goose plac'd sentry on his station
Preserv'd old Rome from desolation ;
An English Bishop's * Cur of late
Disclos'd rebellions 'gainst the State ;
So Frogs croak'd Pharaoh to repentance,
And Lice revers'd the threat'ning sentence :
And Heav'n can ruin you at pleasure,
By our scorn'd Gage, as well as Cæsar.
Yet did our hero in these days
Pick up some laurel-wreaths of praise.
And as the statuary of Seville
Made his crackt faint an exc'llent devil ;
So tho' our war few triumphs brings,
We gain'd great fame in other things.

* See Bishop Atterbury's trial.

Did not our troops show much discerning,
And skill your various arts in learning?
Outwent they not each native Noodle
By far, in playing Yanky-Doodle *;
Which, as 'twas your New-England tune,
'Twas marvellous they took so soon?
And ere the year was fully thro',
Did not they learn to foot it too;
And such a dance as ne'er was known,
For twenty miles on end led down †?
Was there a Yanky trick you knew,
They did not play as well as you?
Did they not lay their heads together,
And gain your art to tar and feather,
When Col'nel Nesbitt thro' the town
In triumph bore the country-clown?
Oh, what a glorious work to fing
The vet'ran troops of Britain's king.

* *Yanky-Doodle*, as M'Fingal here relates, was a native Air of New-England, and was often played in derision by the British troops, particularly on their march to Lexington. Afterwards the captive army of Burgoyne was obliged to march to this tune in the ceremony of piling their arms at Saratoga. In the course of the war it became a favorite Air of Liberty, like the present *ça ira* of France. It is remarkable that after the taking of the Bastille, and before the introduction of *ça ira*, the Paris guards played *Yanky-doodle*, *Edit.*

† This is Lord Percy's modern Chevy-chace; in which his lordship and his army were chased from Concord to Boston. *Edit.*

Advent'ring for th' heroic laurel,
With bag of feathers and tar-barrel !
To paint the cart where culprits ride,
And Nesbitt marching at its side *,
Great executioner and proud,
Like hangman high on Holborn road ;
And o'er the bright triumphal car
The waving ensigns of the war !
As when a triumph Rome decreed,
For great Calig'la's valiant deed,
Who had subdu'd the British seas,
By gath'ring cockles from their base ;
In pompous car the conqu'ror bore
His captiv'd scallops from the shore,
Ovations gain'd his crabs for fetching,
And mighty feats of oyster-catching :
O'er Yankies thus the war begun,
They tarr'd and triumph'd over one ;
And fought and boasted thro' the season,
With might as great, and equal reason

Yet

* The action here celebrated, considered as one of the provocatives to the glorious war which followed, is too important to be omitted in our explanatory labours. Yet, by compressing our narrative into a size convenient for a note, we fear that we shall fail of doing sufficient honour to this immortal hero of the feather-bag ; whose fame ought to be as dear to us, as to the Poet himself. In the winter of 1774 and 1775, our army at Boston had been stimulated, by their Officers and the

“ Yet thus, tho' skill'd in vict'ry toils,
 They boast, not unexpert, in wiles.
 For gain'd they not an equal fame in
 The arts of secrecy and scheming;
 In stratagems show'd mighty force,
 And moderniz'd the Trojan horse,
 Play'd o'er again those tricks Ulysses,
 In their fam'd Salem-expedition?

For

the Tories, to an ardent desire of seeing hostilities commence. But these instigators always wished to have the Americans *begin*, that they might appear to the English nation and to the world, as the aggressors; and, from the time of Preston's affair in the year 1770, every method of promoting private broils between the inhabitants and the military had been pursued, without the desired effect.

In the beginning of 1775, as the King's standard was to be erected on the first of May at Worcester, fifty miles from Boston, the troops feared that they should be obliged to march from Boston, without having the opportunity of indulging the vengeance which they had promised themselves in that town. To bring forward an occasion for a more serious quarrel than had hitherto taken place between the people and the army, Lieutenant Colonel Nesbitt, of the 47th regiment, laid the following plan.—The country people being in the habit of purchasing arms, he directed a soldier to sell to some one of them an old rusty musquet. The soldier soon found a purchaser, a man who brought vegetables to market, who paid him three dollars for the musquet. Though this bargain might have the appearance of a crime in the soldier (supposing the musquet to have been his own, and necessary to his duty) it never could

For as that horse, the Poets tell ye,
 Bore Grecian armies in his belly;
 Till, their full reck'ning run, with joy
 Their Sinon midwif'd them in Troy;
 So in one ship was Leslie bold
 Cramm'd with three hundred men in hold,
 Equipp'd for enterprize and fail,
 Like Jonas stow'd in womb of whale.
 To Marblehead in depth of night,
 The cautious vessel wing'd her flight.

could be so in the market-man, in a country where every human creature had an equal right to carry arms. But scarcely had the man parted from the soldier, when he was seized by Nesbitt, and conveyed to the guard-house, on Green's Wharf, about the middle of the town; where he was confined all night. Early the next morning, they stripped him entirely naked, covered him with warm tar, and then with feathers, placed him on a cart, conducted him to the north end of the town, then back to the south end, as far as Liberty-Tree; where the people began to collect in vast numbers, and the military, fearing for their own safety, dismissed the man, and made a retreat to the barracks.

The party consisted of about thirty grenadiers of the 47th regiment, with fixed bayonets, 20 drums and fifes, playing the rogues's march, headed by Nesbitt with a drawn sword.

The magistrates of the town waited on General Gage with a complaint of this outrage. He pretended disapprobation; but took no steps to censure the conduct of Nesbitt, or to do justice to the man who had suffered the violence.

Edit.

And

And now the sabbath's silent day
Call'd all your Yankies off to pray;
Remov'd each prying jealous neighbour,
The scheme and vessel fell in labour;
Forth from its hollow womb pour'd hast'ly
The Myrmidons of Col'nel Leslie:
Not thicker o'er the blacken'd strand
The * frogs' detachment rush'd to land,
Equipp'd by onset or surprize
To storm th' entrenchment of the mice.
Thro' Salem strait without delay,
The bold battalion took its way,
March'd o'er a bridge in open fight
Of sev'ral Yankies arm'd for fight,
Then without loss of time, or men
Veer'd round for Boston back again;
And found so well their projects thrive,
That ev'ry soul got home alive.

“ Thus Gage's arms did fortune bless
With triumph, safety, and success:
But mercy is, without dispute,
His first and darling attribute;
So great, it far outwent and conquer'd
His military skill at Concord.
There when the war he chose to wage
Shone the benevolence of Gage;

* See Homer's Battle of the Frogs and Mice.

Sent troops to that ill-omen'd place
On errands mere of special grace,
And all the work he chose them for
Was to * *prevent* a civil war :
And for that purpose he projected
The only certain way t' effect it,
To take your powder, stores, and arms,
And all your means of doing harms :
As prudent folks take knives away,
Lest children cut themselves at play.
And yet, tho' this was all his scheme,
This war you still will charge on him ;
And tho' he oft has sworn, and said it,
Stick close to facts, and give no credit.
Think you, he wish'd you'd brave and beard him ?
Why, 'twas the very thing that scar'd him.
He'd rather you should all have run,
Than stay'd to fire a single gun.
And for the civil war you lament,
Faith, you yourselves must take the blame in't ;
For had you then, as he intended,
Giv'n up your arms, it must have ended.
Since that's no war, each mortal knows,
Where one side only gives the blows,
And th' other bears 'em ; on reflection
The most you'll call it, is correction.

* See Gage's answer to Governor Trumbull.

Nor could the contest have gone higher,
If you had ne'er return'd the fire;
But when you shot, and not before,
It then commenc'd a civil war.
Else Gage, to end this controversy,
Had but corrected you in mercy:
Whom mother Britain, old and wise,
Sent o'er, the Col'nies to chastise;
Command obedience on their peril
Of ministerial whip and ferule;
And since they ne'er must come of age,
Govern'd and tutor'd them by Gage.
Still more, that this was all their errand,
The army's conduct makes apparent.
What tho' at Lexington you can say
They kill'd a few they did not fancy,
At Concord, then, with manful popping,
Discharg'd a round, the ball to open?
Yet when they saw your rebel-rout
Determin'd still to hold it out;
Did they not show their love to peace,
And wish, that discord strait may cease,
Demonstrate, and by proofs uncommon,
Their orders were to injure no man?
For did not ev'ry Reg'lar run*
As soon as e'er you fir'd a gun:

Take

* In the ancient wars in America, the term *Regular* was
H applied

Take the first shot you sent them greeting,
 As meant their signal for retreating;
 And, fearful if they staid for sport,
 You might by accident be hurt,
 Convey themselves with speed away
 Full twenty miles in half a day;
 Race till their legs were grown so weary,
 They'd scarce suffice their weight to carry?
 Whence Gage extols, from gen'ral hearfy,
 The great * activ'ty of Lord Percy;
 Whose brave example led them on,
 And spirited the troops to run;
 And now may boast at royal levees
 A Yanky-chace worth forty Chevys,
 Yet you, as vile as they were kind,
 Pursu'd, like tygers, still behind,
 Fir'd on them at your will, and shut
 The town, as tho' you'd starve them out;
 And with † parade prepost'rous hedg'd
 Affect to hold them there besieg'd;

applied to British troops, to distinguish them from the Provincials, or new levies of the country. At the commencement of the late war, the same terms of distinction were used. *Edit.*

* "Too much praise cannot be given to Lord Percy for his remarkable activity through the whole day."

Gage's Account of the Lexington Battle.

† "And with a preposterous parade of military arrangement they affect to hold the army besieged."

Gage's last grand Proclamation.

(Tho'

(Tho' Gage, whom proclamations call
Your Gov'nor and Vice-Admiral,
Whose pow'r gubernatorial still
Extends as far as Bunker's hill;
Whose admiralty reaches clever,
Near half a mile up Mystic river,
Whose naval force commands the seas,
Can run away whene'er he please,)
Scar'd Troops of Tories into town,
And burnt their hay and houses down,
And menac'd Gage, unless he'd flee,
To drive him headlong to the sea;
As once, to faithless Jews a sign,
The de'el turn'd hog-reeve, did the swine.

“ But now your triumphs all are o'er;
For see from Britain's angry shore
With mighty hosts of valour join
Her Howe, her Clinton, and Burgoyne.
As comets thro' the affrighted skies
Pour baleful ruin, as they rise;
As Ætna with infernal roar
In conflagration sweeps the shore;
Or as * Abijah White, when sent
Our Marshfield friends to represent;

* He was a representative of Marshfield, and employed to carry their famous town-resolves to Boston. He armed himself in as ridiculous military array, as another Hudibras, pretending he was afraid he should be robbed of them.

Himself while dread array involves,
Commissions, pistols, swords, resolves,
In awful pomp descending down,
Bore terror on the factious town :
Not with less glory and affright,
Parade these Gen'als forth to fight.
No more each Reg'lar * Col'nel runs
From whizzing beetles, as air-guns,
Thinks horn-bugs bullets, or thro' fears
Muskitoes takes for musketeers ;
Nor 'scapes, as tho' you gain'd allies
From Belzebub's whole host of flies.
No bug their warlike heart appalls ;
They better know the sound of balls.
I hear the din of battle bray,
The trump of horror marks its way.
I see after the sack of cities,
The gallows strung with Whig-committees ;

* This was a fact. Some British officers, soon after Gage's arrival in Boston, walking on Beacon-Hill after sunset, were affrighted by noises in the air (supposed to be the flying of bugs and beetles) which they took to be the sound of bullets, and left the hill with great precipitation : Concerning which they wrote terrible accounts to England of their being shot at with air-guns, as appears by one or two letters, extracts from which were published in the English papers.

Your

Your Moderators tric'd, like vermin,
And gate-posts * grac'd with heads of Chairmen;
Your Gen'als for wave-offerings hanging,
And ladders throng'd with Priests haranguing.
What pill'ries glad the Tories' eyes
With patriot-ears for sacrifice!
What whipping-posts your chosen race
Admit successive in embrace,
While each bears off his crimes, alack!
Like Bunyan's pilgrim, on his back!
Where then, when Tories scarce get clear,
Shall Whigs and Congresses appear?
What rocks and mountains shall you call
To wrap you over with their fall,
And save your heads in these sad weathers,
From fire and sword, and tar and feathers!
For lo, with British troops tar-bright,
Again our Nesbitt heaves in fight!
He comes, he comes, your lines to storm,
And rigg your troops in uniform!
To meet such heroes, will ye brag,
With fury arm'd, and feather-bag;

* The Author, though a rebel and a foreigner, cannot avoid this indirect tribute of praise to his ancient Mother-country. He evidently alludes here to the heads of the chiefs of the last Scottish rebellion, which were fixed on Temple-Bar, and served for so many years, both as an ornament to this our good city of London, and as an emblem of our national humanity.

Edit.

Who wield their missile pitch and tar,
With engines new in British war?

“ Lo, where our mighty navy brings
Destruction on her canvas wings,
While thro’ the deeps her potent thunder
Shall sound th’ alarm to rob and plunder!
As Phœbus first, so Homer speaks,
When he march’d out t’ attack the Greeks,
’Gainst mules sent forth his arrows fatal,
And slew th’ auxiliaries, their cattle;
So where our ships shall stretch the keel,
What conquer’d oxen shall they steal!
What heroes rising from the deep
Invade your marshall’d hosts of sheep!
Disperse whole troops of horse, and pressing
Make cows surrender at discretion;
Attack your hens, like Alexanders,
And reg’ments rout of geese and ganders;
Or where united arms combine
Lead captive many a herd of swine!
Then rush in dreadful fury down
To fire on ev’ry sea-port town;
Display their glory and their wits,
Fright unarm’d children into fits,
And stoutly from th’ unequal fray,
Make many a woman-run away!
And can ye doubt whene’er we please
Our chiefs shall boast such deeds as these?

Have

Have we not chiefs, transcending far
 The old fam'd *thunderbolts of war* ;
 Beyond the brave romantic fighters,
 Stil'd *swords of death* by novel-writers ?
 Nor in romancing ages e'er rose
 So terrible a tier of heroes.
 From Gage, what flashes fright the waves !
 How loud a blunderbuss is Graves * !
 How Newport dreads the blust'ring fallies,
 That thunder from our popgun, Wallace *,
 While noise in formidable strains
 Spouts from his thimble-full of brains !
 I see you sink with aw'd surprize !
 I see our Tory-brethren rise !
 And as the sect'ries Sandimanian †,
 Our friends, describe their wish'd Millennium ;
 Tell how the world in ev'ry region
 At once shall own their true religion ;
 For Heav'n with plagues of awful dread
 Shall knock all heretics o' th' head ;

* Admiral Graves and Captain Wallace lay before the town
 of Newport a long time, and by their " Deeds above heroic,"
 merited all the praises that the discerning M'Fingal has here
 bestowed upon them. *Edit.*

† The religious sect of Sandimaniacs, and their singular ideas
 of the Millennium are well known in this country. In Ame-
 rica, their political religion was Toryism. *Edit.*

And

And then their church, the meek in spirit,
The earth, as promis'd, shall inherit,
From the dead wicked, as heirs-male,
And next remainder-men in tail :
Such ruin shall the Whigs oppress !
Such spoils our Tory friends shall bless !
While Confiscation at command
Shall stalk in horror thro' the land,
Shall give your Whig-estates away,
And call our brethren into play.

“ And can ye doubt or scruple more,
These things are near you at the door ?
Behold ! for tho' to reas'ning blind,
Signs of the times ye sure might mind,
And view impending fate as plain
As ye'd foretell a show'r of rain.

“ Hath not Heav'n warn'd you what must ensue,
And Providence declar'd against you ;
Hung forth its dire portents of war,
By * signs and beacons in the air ;
Alarm'd old women all around
By fearful noises under ground ;
While earth for many dozen leagues
Groan'd with her dismal load of Whigs ?

* Such stories of prodigies were at that time industriously propagated by the Tory-party in various parts of New-England, to terrify and intimidate the superstitious.

Was there a meteor far and wide
But muster'd on the Tory-side?
A star malign that has not bent
Its aspects for the Parliament,
Foreboding your defeat and misery;
As once they fought against old Sisera?
Was there a cloud that spread the skies,
But bore our armies of allies?
While dreadful hosts of fire stood forth
'Mid baleful glimm'rings from the North *;
Which plainly shows which part they join'd,
For North's the minister, ye mind;
Whence oft your quibblers in gazettes
On *Northern blasts* have strain'd their wits;
And think ye not the clouds know how
To make the pun as well as you?
Did there arise an apparition,
But grinn'd forth ruin to sedition?
A death-watch, but has join'd our leagues,
And click'd destruction to the Whigs?

* It is said to be a fact, that in America, about the commencement of the war, the *aurora borealis* appeared more frequently than usual, and assumed more singular appearances. Our hero's reasoning on this phenomenon is precisely that of many of his countrymen of that day; and there is no doubt but the government of Great-Britain gained many substantial profelytes and friends, from the mere circumstance of the orthography of the *name* of the minister, whom our gracious Sovereign appointed to conduct that glorious war. *Edit.*

Heard ye not, when the wind was fair,
At night our or'tors in the air,
That, loud as admiralty-libel,
Read awful chapters from the bible,
And death and deviltry denounc'd,
And told you how you'd soon be trounc'd?
I see, to join our conqu'ring side
Heav'n, earth, and hell at once allied!
See from your overthrow and end
The Tories paradise ascend;
Like that new world that claims its station
Beyond the final conflagration!
I see the day that lots your share
In utter darkness and despair;
The day of joy, when North, our Lord,
His faithful fav'rites shall reward!
No Tory then shall set before him
Small wish of 'Squire, or Justice Quorum;
But 'fore his unmistaken eyes
See Lordships, posts and pensions rise.
Awake to gladness then, ye Tories,
Th' unbounded prospect lies before us?
The pow'r display'd in Gage's banners
Shall cut Amer'can lands to manors,
And o'er our happy conquer'd ground
Dispense estates and titles round.

Behold,

Behold, the world shall stare at new sets
Of home-made * earls in Massachusetts;
Admire, array'd in ducal taffels,
Your Ol'vers, Hutchinsons, and Vassals;
See, join'd in ministerial work,
His grace of Albany and York!
What Lordships from each carv'd estate,
On our New-York Assembly wait!
What titled † Jauncys, Gales, and Billops;
Lord Brush, Lord Wilkins, and Lord Phillips!
In wide-sleev'd pomp of godly guise,
What solemn rows of bishops rise!
Aloft a card'nal's hat is spread
O'er punster ‡ Cooper's rev'rend head!
In Vardell, that poetic zealot,
I view a lawn-bedizen'd prelate!
While mitres fall, as 'tis their duty,
On heads of Chandler and Auchmuty!
Knights, viscounts, barons, shall ye meet,
As thick as pavements in the street!

* See Hutchinson's and Oliver's Letters.

† Members of the ministerial Majority in the New-York Assembly; Wilkins, a noted writer.

‡ President Cooper is a notorious punster; Vardell, author of some poetical satires on the sons of liberty in New-York, and royal professor in King's college; Chandler and Auchmuty, High-church and Tory-writers of the clerical order.

Ev'n I, perhaps, Heav'n speed my claim,
Shall fix a *Sir* before my name.
For titles all our foreheads ache;
For what blest changes can they make!
Place rev'rence, grace, and excellence
Where neither claim'd the least pretence;
Transform by patent's magic words
Men, likest Devils, into Lords;
Whence commoners, to peers translated,
Are justly said to be *created*!
Now where commissioners ye saw
Shall boards of nobles deal you law!
Long-rob'd comptrollers judge your rights,
And tide-waiters start up in knights!
While Whigs subdu'd in slavish awe,
Our wood shall hew, our water draw,
And bless that mildness, when past hope,
Which fav'd their necks from noose of rope,
For as to gain assistance we
Design their Negroes to set free;
For Whigs, when we enough shall bang 'em,
Perhaps 'tis better not to hang 'em;
Except their chiefs; the vulgar knaves
Will do more good preserv'd for slaves."

" 'Tis well, Honorius cried, your scheme
Has painted out a pretty dream.
We can't confute your second sight;
We shall be slaves and you a knight:

These

These things must come : but I divine
They'll come not in your day, or mine.
But oh, my friends, my brethren, hear,
And turn for once th' attentive ear.
Ye see how prompt to aid our woes,
The tender mercies of our foes ;
Ye see with what unvaried rancour
Still for our blood their minions hanker,
Nor aught can fate their mad ambition,
From us, but death, or worse, submission.
Shall these then riot in our spoil,
Reap the glad harvest of our toil,
Rise from their country's ruin proud,
And roll their chariot wheels in blood ?
And can ye sleep while high outspread
Hangs desolation o'er your head ?
See Gage with inauspicious star
Has op'd the gates of civil war ;
When streams of gore from freemen slain,
Encrimson'd Concord's fatal plain ;
Whose warning voice, with awful sound,
Still cries, like Abel's, from the ground,
And Heav'n, attentive to its call,
Shall doom the proud oppressor's fall."

" Rise then, ere ruin swift surprize,
To victory, to vengeance rise !
Hark, how the distant din alarms !
The echoing trumpet breathes, to arms ;

From provinces remote, afar,
The sons of glory rouse to war;
'Tis freedom calls; th' enraptur'd sound
The Apalachian hills rebound;
The Georgian shores her voice shall hear,
And start from lethargies of fear.
From the parch'd zone, with glowing ray,
Where pours the sun intense day,
To shores where icy waters roll,
And tremble to the dusky pole,
Inspir'd by freedom's heav'nly charms,
United nations wake to arms.
The star of conquest lights their way,
And guides their vengeance on their prey—
Yes, tho' tyrannic force oppose,
Still shall they triumph o'er their foes,
Till Heav'n the happy land shall bless,
With safety, liberty, and peace."

" And ye whose souls of dastard mould
Start at the brav'ry of the bold;
To love your country who pretend,
Yet want all spirit to defend;
Who feel your fancies so prolific,
Engend'ring vision'd whims terrific,
O'er-run with horrors of coercion,
Fire, blood, and thunder in reversion,
King's standards, pill'ries, confiscations,
And Gage's scare-crow proclamations,

With

With all the trumpery of fear ;
Hear bullets whizzing in your rear ;
Who scarce could rouze, if caught in fray,
Presence of mind to run away ;
See nought but halters rise to view
In all your dreams, (and dreams are true ;)
And while these phantoms haunt your brains,
Bow down the willing neck to chains.
Heav'ns ! are ye sons of fires so great,
Immortal in the fields of fate,
Who brav'd all deaths by land or sea,
Who bled, who conquer'd to be free !
Hence ! coward souls, the worst disgrace
Of our forefathers' valiant race ;
Hie homeward from the glorious field ;
There turn the wheel, the distaff wield ;
Act what ye are, nor dare to stain
The warrior's arms with touch profane :
There beg your more heroic wives
To guard your children and your lives ;
Beneath their aprons find a screen,
Nor dare to mingle more with men."

" As thus he said, the Tories' anger
Could now restrain itself no longer,
Who tried before by many a freak, or
Insulting noise, to stop the speaker ;
Swung th' unoil'd hinge of each pew-door ;
Their feet kept shuffling on the floor ;

Made

Made their disapprobation known
By many a murmur, hum, and groan,
That to his speech supplied the place
Of counterpart in thorough-bass:
As bag-pipes, while the tune they breathe,
Still drone and grumble underneath;
Or as the fam'd Demosthenes
Harangu'd the rumbling of the seas,
Held forth with eloquence full grave
To audience loud of wind and wave;
And had a stiller congregation
Than Tories are to hear th' oration.
But now the storm grew high and louder,
As nearer thundrings of a cloud are,
And ev'ry soul with heart and voice
Supplied his quota of the noise;
Each list'ning ear was set on torture
Each Tory bell'wing out, to order;
And some, with tongue not low or weak,
Were clam'ring fast, for leave to speak;
The moderator, with great violence,
The cushion thump'd with " Silence! silence!"
The constable to ev'ry prater
Bawl'd out, " Pray hear the moderator;"
Some call'd the vote, and some, in turn,
Were screaming high, " Adjourn, adjourn."
Not chaos heard such jars and clashes
When all the el'ments fought for places.

Each

Each bludgeon soon for blows was tim'd ;
Each fist stood ready cock'd and prim'd ;
The storm each moment louder grew ;
His sword the great M'Fingal drew,
Prepar'd in either chance to share,
To keep the peace, or aid the war.
Nor lack'd they each poetic being,
Whom bards alone are skill'd in seeing ;
Plum'd Victory stood perch'd on high,
Upon the pulpit-canopy,
To join, as is her custom tried,
Like Indians, on the strongest side ;
The Destinies with shears and distaff,
Drew near, their threads of life to twist off ;
The Furies 'gan to feast on blows,
And broken heads or bloody nose ;
When on a sudden, from without,
Arose a loud terrific shout ;
And strait the people all at once heard
Of tongues an universal concert ;
Like Æsop's times, as fable runs,
When ev'ry creature talk'd at once ;
Or like the variegated gabble
That craz'd the carpenters of Babel.
Each party soon forgot the quarrel,
And let the other go on parole ;
Eager to know what fearful matter
Had conjur'd up such gen'ral clatter ;

And left the church in thin array,
As tho' it had been lecture-day.
Our 'Squire M'Fingal straitway beckon'd
The constable to stand his second,
And sallied forth with aspect fierce
The croud assembled to disperse.
The moderator, out of view
Beneath a bench, had lain perdue ;
Peep'd up his head to view the fray,
Beheld the wranglers run away,
And, left alone, with solemn face,
Adjourn'd them without time or place.

END OF CANTO SECOND.

M ' F I N G A L :

C A N T O T H I R D .

The Liberty-Pole.

NOW arm'd with ministerial ire,
Fierce sallied forth our loyal 'Squire,
And on his striding steps attends,
His desp'rate clan of Tory friends;
When sudden met his angry eye,
A pole ascending thro' the sky,
Which num'rous throngs of Whiggish race
Were raising in the market-place;
Not higher school-boys kites aspire,
Or royal mast, or country spire,

Like spears at Brobdignagian tilting,
 Or Satan's walking-staff in Milton;
 And on its top the flag unfurl'd,
 Wav'd triumph o'er the prostrate world,
 Inscrib'd with inconsistent types
 Of *liberty* and *thirteen stripes* *.
 Beneath, the croud, without delay,
 The dedication-rites essay,
 And gladly pay, in ancient fashion,
 The ceremonies of libation;
 While briskly to each patriot lip
 Walks eager round th' inspiring flip †:
 Delicious draught, whose pow'rs inherit
 The quintessence of public spirit!
 Which who so tastes, perceives his mind
 To nobler politics refin'd,
 Or rous'd for martial controversy,
 As from transforming cups of Circe;
 Or warm'd with Homer's nectar'd liquor,
 That fill'd the veins of gods with ichor.
 At hand for new supplies in store,
 The tavern opens its friendly door,
 Whence to and fro the waiters run,
 Like bucket-men, at fires in town.

* *Thirteen stripes*, the American flag.

Edit.

† *Flip* is a liquor composed of beer, rum, and sugar. The Poet supposes large drafts of this liquor to be used in the dedication of the Liberty Pole; which shows that he is not unacquainted with the people whose manners he describes. *Edit.*

Then with three shouts that tore the sky,
'Tis consecrate to Liberty;
To guard it from th' attacks of Tories,
A grand committee cull'd of four is,
Who, foremost on the patriot spot,
Had brought the flip and paid the shot.

By this, M'Fingal, with his train,
Advanc'd upon th' adjacent plain,
And fierce, with loyal rage possess'd,
Pour'd forth the zeal, that fir'd his breast.
“ What mad-brain'd rebel gave commission,
To raise this May-pole of sedition!
Like Babel rear'd by bawling throngs,
With like confusion too of tongues,
To point at Heav'n, and summon down
The thunders of the British crown?
Say, will this paltry pole secure
Your forfeit heads from Gage's pow'r?
Attack'd by heroes brave and crafty,
Is this to stand your ark of safety?
Or driv'n by Scottish laird and laddie,
Think ye to rest beneath its shadow?
When bombs, like fiery serpents, fly,
And balls move hissing thro' the sky,
Will this vile pole, devote to freedom,
Save like the Jewish pole in Edom,
Or like the brazen snake of Moses,
Cure your crackt skulls and batter'd noses?

Ye dupes to ev'ry factious rogue,
Or tavern-prating demagogue,
Whose tongue but rings, with sound more full,
On th' empty drumhead of his skull;
Behold you not what noisy fools
Use you, worse simpletons, for tools?
For Liberty in your own by-sense
Is but for crimes a patent licence;
To break of law th' Egyptian yoke,
And throw the world in common stock,
Reduce all grievances and ills
To Magna Charta of your wills,
Establish cheats and frauds and nonsense,
Fram'd by the model of your conscience,
Cry justice down, as out of fashion,
And fix its scale of depreciation*,
Defy all creditors to trouble ye,
And pass new years of Jewish jubilee;
Drive judges out, like Aaron's calves,
By jurisdiction of white staves,
And make the bar and bench and steeple,
Submit t' our sov'reign Lord, the People;
Assure each knave his whole affets,
By gen'ral amnesty of debts;

* Alluding to the depreciation of the continental paper-money. The declining value of this Currency was ascertained and declared by Congress, in what was called a *scale of depreciation*. See more of this subject in the last Canto. *Edit.*

By plunder rise to pow'r and glory,
And brand all property as Tory ;
Expose all wares to lawful seizures
Of mobbers and monopolizers ;
Break heads and windows and the peace,
For your own int'rest and increase ;
Dispute and pray and fight and groan,
For public good, and mean your own ;
Prevent the laws, by fierce attacks,
From quitting scores upon your backs,
Lay your old dread, the gallows, low,
And seize the stocks, your ancient foe ;
And turn them, as convenient engines
To wreak your patriotic vengeance ;
While all, your claims who understand,
Confess they're in the owner's hand :
And when by clamours and confusions,
Your freedom's grown a public nuisance,
Cry, *Liberty*, with pow'rful yearning,
As he does, *fire*, whose house is burning,
Tho' he already has much more,
Than he can find occasion for.
While ev'ry dunce, that turns the plains,
Tho' bankrupt in estate and brains,
By this new light transform'd to traitor,
Forfakes his plow, to turn dictator,
Starts an haranguing chief of Whigs,
And drags you by the ears, like pigs.

All bluster arm'd with factious licence,
 Transform'd at once to politicians ;
 Each leather-apron'd clown, grown wise,
 Presents his forward face t' advise,
 And tatter'd legislators meet
 From ev'ry work-shop thro' the street ;
 His goose the tailor finds new use in,
 To patch and turn the constitution ;
 The blacksmith comes with fledge and grate,
 To iron-bind the wheels of state ;
 The quack forbears his patient's soufe,
 To purge the Council and the House ;
 The tinker quits his moulds and doxies,
 To cast assembly men at proxies.
 From dunghills deep of fable hue,
 Your dirt-bred patriots spring to view,
 To wealth and pow'r and pension rise,
 Like new-wing'd maggots chang'd to flies ;
 And flutt'ring round in proud parade,
 Strut in the robe, or gay cockade.
 See * Ar—d quits, for ways more certain,
 His bankrupt perj'ries for his fortune ;

Brews

* Ar—d's perjuries at the time of his pretended bankruptcy, which was the first rise of his fortune ; and his curious law-suit against a brother-skipper, who had charged him with having caught the above-mentioned disease, by his connection with a certain African princess in the West-Indies, with its humour-

Brews rum no longer in his store,
 Jockey and skipper now no more;
 Forfakes his warehouses and docks,
 And writs of slander for the pox,
 And, purg'd by patriotism from shame,
 Grows Gen'ral of the foremost name.

* *Hiatus.*

For in this ferment of the stream,
 The dregs have work'd up to the brim,
 And by the rule of topsy-turvys,
 The skum stands swelling on the surface.
 You've caus'd your pyramid t' ascend,
 And set on the little end;
 Like Hudibras, your empire's made,
 Whose crupper had o'er-top'd his head;
 You've push'd and turn'd the whole world up-
 Side down, and got yourselves a-top:
 While all the great ones of your state,
 Are crush'd beneath the pop'lar weight;
 Nor can you boast this present hour,
 The shadow of the form of pow'r.

ous issue, are matters, not I believe so generally known, as the other circumstances of his public and private character.

* M'Fingal having here inserted the names and characters of several great men, whom the public have not yet fully detected, it is thought proper to omit sundry paragraphs of his speech, in the present edition.

For what's your Congress *, or its end?
 A Power t' advise and recommend;
 To call for troops, adjust your quotas,
 And yet no soul is bound to notice;
 To pawn your faith to th' utmost limit,
 But cannot bind you to redeem it,
 And when in want, no more in them lies,
 Than begging of your State-Assemblies;
 Can utter oracles of dread,
 Like Friar Bacon's brazen head;
 But should a faction e'er dispute 'em,
 Has ne'er an arm to execute 'em.
 As tho' you chose supreme dictators,
 And put them under conservators;
 You've but pursu'd the self-same way,
 With Shakespeare's Trinclo in the play,

* The author here, in a true strain of patriotic censure, pointed out the principal defects in the first federal Constitution of the United States; all which have been since removed in the New Constitution, established in the year 1789. So that the prophecy below, *You'll ne'er have sense enough to mend it*, must be ranked among the other sage blunders of his second-sighted Hero. But the great M'Fingal himself has the satisfaction of being kept in countenance by the whole galaxy of Statesmen and Philosophers in Europe, who believe and teach, that no people can have sense enough to make their own laws. These men may turn, in a future day, to this great luminary of American royalism, and boast at least of the honour *cum Platone errare*.
 Edit.

“ You shall be viceroys here, 'tis true,
But we'll be viceroys over you.”
What wild confusion hence must ensue,
Tho' common danger yet cements you ;
So some wreck'd vessel, all in shatters,
Is held up by furrounding waters,
But stranded, when the pressure ceases,
Falls, by its rottenness, to pieces.
And fall it must—if wars were ended,
You'll ne'er have sense enough to mend it ;
But creeping on with low intrigues
Like vermin of an hundred legs,
Will find as short a life assign'd
As all things else of reptile kind.
Your Commonwealth's a common harlot,
The property of ev'ry varlet,
Which, now in taste and full employ,
All sorts admire, as all enjoy ;
But soon a batter'd strumpet grown,
You'll curse and drum her out of town.
Such is the government you chose.
For this you bade the world be foes,
For this, so mark'd for dissolution,
You scorn the British constitution ;
That constitution, form'd by sages,
The wonder of all modern ages ;
Which owns no failure in reality,
Except corruption and venality ;

And only proves the adage just,
That best things spoil'd, corrupt to worst :
So man, supreme in mortal station,
And mighty lord of this creation,
When once his corse is dead as herring,
Becomes the most offensive carrion,
And sooner breeds the plague, 'tis found,
Than all beasts rotting 'bove the ground.
Yet for this gov'nment, to dismay us,
You've call'd up Anarchy from Chaos,
With all the followers of her school,
Uproar and Rage and wild Misrule ;
For whom this rout of Whigs distracted
And ravings dire of ev'ry crack'd head ;
These new-cast legislative engines
Of country-musters and conventions,
Committees vile of correspondence,
And mobs, whose tricks have almost undone 's ;
While reason fails to check your course,
And loyalty's kick'd out of doors,
And folly, like inviting landlord,
Hoists on your poles her royal standard.
While the king's friends in doleful dumps,
Have worn their courage to the stumps,
And leaving George in sad disaster,
Most sinfully deny their master.

What

What furies rag'd, when you in sea,
In shape of Indians drown'd the tea*,
When your gay sparks, fatigu'd to watch it,
Assumed the moggison and hatchet,
With wampom'd blankets hid their laces,
And, like their sweet-hearts, primed their faces:
While not a Red-coat dar'd oppose,
And scarce a Tory shew'd his nose;
While Hutchinson for sure retreat,
Manœuvred to his country seat,
And thence affrighted in the fuds,
Stole off bare-headed thro' the woods!
Have you not rous'd your mobs to join,
And make Mandamus-men reïgn,
Call'd forth each duffil-dress'd curmudgeon,
With dirty trowsers and white bludgeon,
Forc'd all our Councils thro' the land,
To yield their necks to your command;
While paleness marks their late disgraces
Thro' all their rueful length of faces?
Have you not caus'd as woful work
In loyal city of New-York †,
When all the rabble, well cockaded,
In triumph thro' the streets paraded;

* The persons who destroyed the cargo of tea, above referred to, were disguised in the habit of Indians. *Edit.*

† There were so many influential Tories in New-York, that they at first obtained a vote in favour of the Acts of Parliament, and against the proceedings of the first Congress. *Edit.*

And

And mobb'd the Tories, fear'd their spouses,
 And ranfack'd all the custom-houses,
 Made such a tumult, bluster, jarring,
 That 'mid the clash of tempests warring,
 Smith's weathercock, with veers forlorn *,
 Could hardly tell which way to turn ;
 Burnt effigies of th' Higher Powers,
 Contriv'd in planetary hours,
 As witches, with clay-images,
 Destroy or torture whom they please ;
 'Till fir'd with rage, th' ungrateful club
 Spar'd not your best friend, Belzebub,
 O'er-look'd his favours, and forgot
 The rev'rence due t' his cloven foot ;
 And in the self-same furnace frying,
 Burn'd him, and North, and Bute, and Tryon † ?
 Did you not in as vile and shallow way,
 Fright our poor Philadelphian, ‡ Galloway,

* William Smith, formerly a lawyer in New-York. We believe he is now a Chief-Justice in one of the Canadas. *Edit.*

† Tryon, being now dead, is probably forgot. The English reader must know that he was governor of New-York, and a British general during the war. He had the glory of burning the towns of Fairfield and Norwalk, and of issuing many proclamations. The other personages that make up this *kettle of fish*, Bute, Belzebub, and North, are still living, and therefore want no explanation. *Edit.*

‡ Galloway began by being a flaming patriot. He is one of the few men, who proved a traitor to his country, wrote against it, and ran away. *Edit.*

Your

Your Congress when the daring ribald
Belied, berated, and bescribbled?
What ropes and halters did you send,
Terrific emblems of his end,
Till, least he'd hang in more than effigy,
Fled in a fog the trembling refugee?
Now rising in progression fatal,
Have you not ventur'd to give battle?
When treason chac'd our heroes troubled,
With rusty gun and leathern doublet,
Turn'd all stone-walls, and groves, and bushes,
To batt'ries arm'd with blunderbusses,
And with deep wounds, that fate portend,
Gaul'd many a Reg'lar's latter end,
Drove them to Boston, as in jail,
Confin'd without main-prize or bail.
Were not these deeds enough betimes,
To heap the measure of your crimes,
But in this loyal town and dwelling,
You raise these ensigns of rebellion?
'Tis done; fair Mercy shuts her door;
And Vengeance now shall sleep no more;
Rise then, my friends, in terror rise,
And wipe this scandal from the skies!
You'll see their Dagon, tho' well jointed,
Will sink before the Lord's anointed,
And like old Jericho's proud wall,
Before our ram's horns prostrate fall."

This

This said our 'Squire, yet undismay'd,
 Call'd forth the Constable to aid,
 And bade him read in nearer station,
 The riot-act and proclamation * ;
 Who, now advancing tow'rd the ring,
 Began, " Our sov'reign Lord the King"—
 When thousand clam'rous tongues he hears,
 And clubs and stones assail his ears ;
 To fly was vain, to fight was idle,
 By foes encompass'd in the middle ;
 In stratagem his aid he found,
 And fell right craftily to ground ;
 Then crept to seek an hiding place,
 'Twas all he could, beneath a brace ;
 Where soon the conqu'ring crew espied him,
 And where he lurk'd, they caught and tied him.

At once with resolution fatal,
 Both Whigs and Tories rush'd to battle ;
 Instead of weapons, either band
 Seiz'd on such arms, as came to hand.
 And as fam'd † Ovid paints th' adventures
 Of wrangling Lapithæ and Centaurs,

* *Reading the Riot-act* has the same miraculous effect in America as in England: it may convert any collection of men into a riot, and is the tremendous prologue to any tragedy that may result from the exercise of Martial Law. *Edit.*

† Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, Book xii.

Who at their feast, by Bacchus led,
Threw bottles at each other's head,
And these arms failing in their scuffles,
Attack'd with hand-irons, tongs, and shovels :
So clubs and billets, staves and stones
Met fierce, encount'ring ev'ry sconce,
And cover'd o'er with knobs and pains
Each void receptacle for brains ;
Their clamours rend the hills around,
And earth rebellows with the sound ;
And many a groan increas'd the din
From broken nose and batter'd shin.
M'Fingal, rising at the word,
Drew forth his old militia sword ;
Thrice cried, " King George," as erst in distress
Romancing heroes did their mistress,
And, brandishing the blade in air,
Struck terror thro' th' opposing war.
The Whigs, unsafe within the wind
Of such commotion, shrunk behind.
With whirling steel around address'd,
Fierce thro' their thickest throng he press'd,
(Who roll'd on either side in arch,
Like Red-sea waves in Israel's march)
And like a meteor rushing through,
Struck on their pole a vengeful blow.
Around, the Whigs, of clubs and stones
Discharg'd whole vollies in platoons,

M

That

That o'er in whistling terror fly,
But not a foe dares venture nigh.
And now, perhaps, with conquest crown'd,
Our 'Squire had fell'd their pole to ground;
Had not some Pow'r, a Whig at heart,
Descended down and took their part,
(Whether 'twere Pallas, Mars, or Iris,
'Tis scarce worth while to make enquiries,)
Who at the nick of time alarming,
Assum'd the graver form of Chairman;
Address'd a Whig, in ev'ry scene
The stoutest wrestler on the green,
And pointed where the spade was found,
Late us'd to fix the pole in ground,
And urg'd with equal arms and might
To dare our 'Squire to single fight*.
The Whig thus arm'd, untaught to yield,
Advanc'd tremendous to the field;
Nor did M'Fingal shun the foe,
But stood to brave the desp'rate blow;
While all the party gaz'd suspended,
To see the deadly combat ended.
And Jove in equal balance weigh'd
The sword against the brandish'd spade,

* The learned reader will readily observe the allusions in this scene to the single combat of Paris and Menelaus in Homer, Æneas and Turnus in Virgil, and Michael and Satan in Milton.

He weigh'd ; but lighter than a dream,
The sword flew up and kick'd the beam.
Our 'Squire on tiptoe rising fair,
Lifts high a noble stroke in air,
Which hung not, but like dreadful engines
Descended on the foe in vengeance.
But ah ! in danger with dishonour,
The sword perfidious fails its owner ;
That sword, which oft had stood its ground
By huge train-bands encompass'd round *,
Or on the bench, with blade right loyal,
Had won the day at many a trial,
Of stones and clubs had brav'd th' alarms,
Shrunk from these new Vulcanian arms.
The spade so temper'd from the sledge,
Nor keen nor solid harm'd its edge,
Now met it from his arm of might
Descending with steep force to smite ;
The blade snapp'd short—and from his hand
With rust embrown'd the glitt'ring sand.
Swift turn'd M'Fingal at the view,
And call'd for aid th' attendant crew,
In vain ; the Tories all had run,
When scarce the fight was well begun ;
Their setting wigs he saw decreas'd,
Far in th' horizon tow'rd the west.

* A *train-band* is a Captain's company in the Militia. The word is particularly applicable to such a company, when paraded for manual exercise.

Edit.

Amaz'd he view'd the shameful fight,
And saw no refuge but in flight :
But age unweildy check'd his pace,
Tho' fear had wing'd his flying race ;
For not a trifling prize at stake ;
No less than great M'Fingal's back.
With legs and arms he work'd his course,
Like rider that outgoes his horse,
And labour'd hard to get away, as
Old Satan * struggling on thro' Chaos ;
Till, looking back, he spied in rear
The spade arm'd chief advanc'd too near.
Then stopp'd and seiz'd a stone that lay,
An antient land-mark near the way ;
Nor shall we, as old Bards have done,
Affirm it weigh'd an hundred ton :
But such a stone as at a shift
A modern might suffice to lift.
Since men, to credit their enigmas,
Are dwindled down to dwarfs and pigmies ;
And giants, exil'd with their cronies,
To Brobdingnags and Patagonias.
But while our hero turn'd him round,
And stoop'd to raise it from the ground,
The deadly spade discharg'd a blow
Tremendous on his rear below :
His bent knee fail'd, and void of strength,
Stretch'd on the ground his manly length ;

* In Milton.

Like antient oak o'er-turn'd he lay,
Or tow'rs to tempests fall'n a prey,
And more things else—but all men know 'em,
If slightly vers'd in Epic Poem.

At once the crew, at this sad crisis,
Fall on, and bind him ere he rises,
And with loud shouts, and joyful soul,
Conduct him pris'ner to the pole.

When now the Mob in lucky hour,
Had got their en'mies in their pow'r,
They first proceed, by wise command,
To take the constable in hand.

Then from the pole's sublimest top
They speeded to let down the rope,
At once its other end in haste bind,
And make it fast upon his waistband,
Till, like the earth, as stretch'd on tenter,
He hung self-balanc'd on his center.

Then upwards, all hands hoisting sail,
They swung him, like a keg of ale;
Till to the pinnacle so fair,
He rose like meteor in the air :
As * Socrates of old at first did
To aid philosophy get hoisted,
And found his thoughts flow strangely clear,
Swung in a basket in mid air :

* Socrates is represented in Aristophanes's Comedy of the Clouds, as hoisted in a basket to aid contemplation.

Our culprit thus in purer sky,
With like advantage rais'd his eye;
And looking forth in prospect wide
His Tory errors clearly spied,
And from his elevated station,
With bawling voice began addressing.
" Good gentlemen, and friends, and kin,
For Heav'n's sake hear, if not for mine!
I here renounce the Pope, the Turks,
The King, the Devil, and all their works;
And will, set me but once at ease,
Turn Whig or Christian, what you please;
And always mind your laws as justly;
Should I live long as old Methus'lah,
I'll never join with British rage,
Nor help Lord North, or Gen'ral Gage,
Nor lift my gun in future fights,
Nor take away your charter'd rights;
Nor overcome your new-rais'd levies,
Destroy your towns, nor burn your navies;
Nor cut your poles down while I've breath,
Tho' rais'd more thick than hatchel teeth:
But leave king George and all his elves
To do their conqu'ring work themselves."

This said, they lower'd him down in state,
Spread at all points, like falling cat;
But took a vote first on the question,
That they'd accept this full confession,

And to their fellowship and favour,
Restore him on his good behaviour.

Not so, our 'Squire submits to rule,
But stood heroic as a mule.

" You'll find it all in vain, quoth he,
To play your rebel tricks on me.
All punishments the world can render,
Serve only to provoke th' offender ;
The will's confirm'd by treatment horrid,
As hides grow harder when they're curri'd.
No man e'er felt the halter draw,
With good opinion of the law ;
Or held in method orthodox
His love of justice in the stocks ;
Or fail'd to lose by sberiff's shears
At once his loyalty and ears.
Have you made Murray look less big,
Or smoak'd old Williams to a Whig ?
Did our mobb'd * Oliver quit his station,
Or heed his vows of resignation ?

Has

* This is the " Chief-Judge Oliver" of the first Canto, in whose appointment the sagacious M'Fingal perceives that Heaven had no hand. One ground of the quarrel between the British government and the people of Massachusetts, was the act by which the Judges of the Colony were rendered independent of the Colony for their salary, as well as for their places ; which was contrary to ancient usage. When the people felt these particular acts of oppression from a power three thousand miles

Has Rivington *, in dread of stripes,
 Ceas'd lying since you stole his types ?
 And can you think my faith will alter,
 By tarring, whipping, or the halter ?
 I'll stand the worst ; for recompence
 I trust King George and Providence.
 And when, our conquest gain'd, I come,
 Array'd in law and terror, home,
 You'll rue this inauspicious morn,
 And curse the day you e'er were born,
 In Job's high style of imprecations,
 With all his plagues, without his patience."

miles distant, their only method of redress was, to prevent any person from accepting an office, or from exercising its functions, under such an act. This expedient had been successful in the case of the Stamp-act a few years before ; and the people now applied to Judge Oliver, requesting him to resign an office, the new arrangement of which so manifestly struck at the foundation of their liberty. The Judge promised to resign his place ; but afterwards claimed that "*highest privilege of speech*," which M'Fingal has so well vindicated in favour of General Gage.

Edit.

* Here again is an old acquaintance of the first Canto. His paper, entitled *The Royal Gazette*, had, by a strange combination of circumstances, obtained the name, through all the country, of *The Lying Gazette*. It was on this account that the people at a certain time sent a committee to take away his types. But this measure was as ineffectual as those that were used with Murray, Williams, Oliver, &c.

Edit.

Meanwhile

Meanwhile, beside the pole, the guard
A Bench of Justice had prepar'd,
Where, sitting round in awful sort,
The grand Committee hold their court ;
While all the crew, in silent awe,
Wait from their lips the lore of law.
Few moments, with deliberation,
They hold the solemn consultation,
When soon in judgment all agree,
And Clerk declares the dread decree ;
“ That 'Squire M'Fingal having grown
The vilest Tory in the town,
And now on full examination,
Convicted by his own confession,
Finding no tokens of repentance,
This Court proceed to render sentence :
That first the Mob a slip-knot single
Tie round the neck of said M'Fingal ;
And in due form do tar him next,
And feather, as the law directs ;
Then thro' the town attendant ride him,
In cart, with Constable beside him ;
And having held him up to shame,
Bring to the pole from whence he came.”

Forthwith the crowd proceed to deck,
With halter'd noose, M'Fingal's neck,
While he, in peril of his soul,
Stood tied half-hanging to the pole ;

N

Then

Then lifting high the pond'rous jar,
Pour'd o'er his head the smoaking tar :
With less profusion erst was spread
The Jewish oil on royal head,
That down his beard and vestments ran,
And cover'd all his outward man.
As when (so * Claudian sings) the gods
And earth-born giants fell at odds,
The stout Enceladus in malice
'Tore mountains up to throw at Pallas ;
And as he held them o'er his head,
The river from their fountains fed,
Pour'd down his back its copious tide,
And wore its channels in his hide :
So from the high rais'd urn the torrents,
Spread down his side their various currents ;
His flowing wig, as next the brim,
First met and drank the sable stream ;
Adown his visage, stern and grave,
Roll'd and adhered the viscid wave ;
With arms depending as he stood,
Each cuff capacious holds the flood ;
From nose and chin's remotest end,
The tarry icicles depend ;
Till all o'erspread, with colours gay
He glitter'd to the western ray,

* Claudian's Gigantomachia.

Like fleet-bound trees in wintry skies,
Or Lapland idol carv'd in ice.
And now the feather-bag display'd,
Is wav'd in triumph o'er his head,
And spread him o'er with feathers missive,
And down, upon the tar adhesive :
Not Maia's son, with wings for ears,
Such plumes around his visage wears ;
Nor Milton's six-wing'd angel gathers,
Such superfluity of feathers.
Till all compleat appears our 'Squire
Like Gorgon or Chimera dire ;
Nor more could boast on * Plato's plan
To rank amid the race of man,
Or prove his claim to human nature,
As a two-legg'd, unfeather'd creature.

Then on the two-wheel'd car of state,
They rais'd our grand Duumvirate.
And as at Rome a like committee,
That found an owl within their city,
With solemn rites and sad processions,
At ev'ry shrine perform'd lustrations ;
And lest infection should abound,
From prodigy with face so round,
All Rome attends him thro' the street,
In triumph to his country-seat :

* Alluding to Plato's famous definition of Man, "*Animal bipes, implumis.*"

With like devotion all the choir
 Paraded round our feather'd 'Squire ;
 In front the martial music comes
 Of horns and fiddles, fifes and drums,
 With jingling sound of carriage bells,
 And treble creak of rusted wheels ;
 Behind, the crowd in lengthen'd row,
 With grave procession clos'd the show ;
 And at fit periods ev'ry throat
 Combin'd in universal shout,
 And hail'd great Liberty in chorus,
 Or bawl'd, Confusion to the Tories.
 Not louder storm the welkin braves,
 From clamors of conflicting waves ;
 Less dire in Lybian wilds the noise
 When rav'ning lions lift their voice ;
 Or triumphs at town-meetings made,
 On passing votes to reg'late trade *.

Thus having borne them round the town,
 Last at the pole they set them down,
 And tow'rd the tavern take their way,
 To end in mirth the festal day.

And now the Mob, dispers'd and gone,
 Left 'Squire and Constable alone.

* Such votes were frequently passed at Town-meetings ;
 the object of which was, to prevent the augmentation of
 prices on the necessaries of life, and thus to obviate the effects
 of the depreciation of the paper-money.

Edit.

The

The Constable, in rueful case,
Lean'd fad and solemn o'er a brace,
And fast beside him, cheek by jowl,
Stuck 'Squire M'Fingal 'gainst the pole,
Glu'd by the tar, t' his rear applied,
Like barnacle on vessel's side :
But tho' his body lack'd physician,
His spirit was in worse condition.
He found his fears of whips and ropes,
By many a drachm out-weigh'd his hopes.
As men in gaol without mainprize,
View ev'ry thing with other eyes;
And all goes wrong in church and state,
Seen thro' perspective of the grate :
So now M'Fingal's second-fight
Beheld all things in diff'rent light ;
His visual nerve, well purg'd with tar,
Saw all the coming scenes of war.
As his prophetic soul grew stronger,
He found he could hold in no longer ;
First from the pole, as fierce he shook,
His wig from pitchy durance broke,
His mouth unglu'd, his feathers flutter'd,
His tarr'd skirts crack'd, and thus he utter'd :
“ Ah, Mr. Constable, in vain
We strive 'gainst wind, and tide, and rain !
Behold my doom ! this feather'd omen
Portends what dismal times are coming.

Now

Now future scenes before my eyes,
And second-sighted forms arise ;
I hear a voice that calls away,
And cries, the Whigs will win the day ;
My beck'ning Genius gives command,
And bids us fly the fatal land ;
Where, changing name and constitution,
Rebellion turns to Revolution,
While Loyalty, oppress'd in tears,
Stands trembling for its neck and ears.
Go, summon all our brethren greeting,
To muster at our usual meeting.
There my prophetic voice shall warn 'em,
Of all things future that concern 'em,
And scenes disclose, on which, my friend,
Their conduct and their lives depend :
There I—but first 'tis more of use,
From this vile pole to set me loose ;——
Then go with cautious steps and steady,
While I steer home and make all ready."

END OF CANTO THIRD.

M'FINGAL:

CANTO FOURTH.

The Vision.

NOW night came down, and rose full soon
That patroness of rogues, the Moon;
Beneath whose kind, protecting ray,
Wolves, brute and human, prowl for prey.
The honest world all snored in chorus,
While owls, and ghosts, and thieves and Tories,
Whom erst the mid-day sun had aw'd,
Crept from their lurking holes abroad.
On cautious hinges, slow and stiller
Wide ope'd the great M'Fingal's * cellar,

* Panditur interea domus omnipotentis Olympi,
Conciliumq; vocat Divum pater atq; hominum rex
Sideream in fedem. Lib. 10. *Æneid.*

Where,

Where, shut from prying eyes in cluster,
 The Tory Pandemonium muster.
 Their chiefs all sitting round descry'd are,
 On kegs of ale, and seats of cyder;
 When first M'Fingal, dimly seen,
 Rose solemn from the turnip-bin.
 Nor yet his * form had wholly lost
 The orig'nal brightness it could boast,
 Nor less appear'd than Justice Quorum,
 In feather'd majesty before 'em.
 Adown his tar-streak'd visage, clear
 Fell glist'ning fast th' indignant tear,
 And thus his voice, in mournful wise,
 Pursu'd the prologue of his sighs :
 " Brethren and friends, the glorious band
 Of loyalty in rebel land !
 It was not thus you've seen me sitting
 Return'd in triumph from town-meeting,
 When blust'ring Whigs were put to stand,
 And votes obey'd my guiding hand,
 And new commissions pleas'd my eyes ;
 Blest days, but, ah, no more to rise !
 Alas ! against my better light
 And optics sure of second-sight,
 My stubborn soul, in error strong,
 Had faith in Hutchinson too long.

* — His form had not yet lost
 All its original brightness, nor appear'd
 Less than Archangel ruin'd.

Milton.

See

See what brave trophies still we bring
From all our battles for the king ;
And yet these plagues, now past before us,
Are but our entring-wedge of sorrows.
I see, in glooms tempestuous, stand
The cloud impending o'er the land ;
That cloud, which still beyond their hopes
Serves all our orators with tropes,
Which tho' from our own vapors fed,
Shall point its thunders on our head !
I see the Mob, beslipp'd in taverns,
Hunt us, like wolves, thro' wilds and caverns !
What dungeons rise t' alarm our fears !
What horse-whips whistle round our ears !
Tar, yet in embryo in the pine,
Shall run, on Tories backs to shine ;
Trees rooted fair in groves of fallows
Are growing for our future gallows ;
And geese unhatch'd, when pluck'd in fray,
Shall rue the feath'ring of that day.
For me, before these fatal days,
I mean to fly th' accursed place,
And follow omens, which of late
Have warn'd me of impending fate ;
Yet pass'd unnotic'd o'er my view,
Till sad conviction prov'd them true ;
As prophecies of best intent,
Are only heeded in th' event.

For late in visions of the night
The gallows stood before my sight ;
I saw its ladder heav'd on end ;
I saw the deadly rope descend ;
And in its noose, that wav'ring swang,
Friend * Malcolm hung, or seem'd to hang.
How changed from him, who, bold as lion,
Stood Aid-de-Camp to Governor Tryon,
Made rebels vanish once, like witches,
And sav'd his life, but dropp'd his breeches.
I scarce had made a fearful bow,
And trembling ask'd him, "How d'ye do?"
When lifting up his eyes so wide,
His eyes alone, his hands were tied ;
With feeble voice, as spirits use,
Now almost choak'd with gripe of noose ;

* Malcolm was a Scotchman, Aid to Governor Tryon in his expedition against the Regulators in North-Carolina, where, in the engagement, he met with the accident of the breeches here alluded to. He was afterwards an under-officer of the customs in Boston, where becoming obnoxious, he was tarred, feathered, and half-hanged by the mob, about the year 1774. After this he was neglected and avoided by his own party, and thinking his merits and sufferings unrewarded, appeared equally malevolent against Whigs and Tories.

The pretences of the Highlanders to prophecy by second-sight, are too well known to need an explanation.

“ Ah

“ Ah, * fly, my friend ! he cri'd ; escape !
And keep yourself from this sad scrape ;
Enough you've talk'd, and writ, and plann'd ;
The Whigs have got the upper hand.
Dame Fortune's wheel has turn'd so short,
It plung'd us fairly in the dirt ;
Could mortal arm our fears have ended,
This arm (and shook it) had defended.
But longer now 'tis vain to stay ;
See ev'n the Reg'lars run away :
Wait not till things grow desperater,
For hanging is no laughing matter :
This might your grandfires' fortunes tell you on,
Who both were hang'd the last rebellion ;
Adventure then no longer stay,
But call your friends and run away.
For lo, thro' deepest glooms of night
I come to aid thy second-fight,
Disclose the plagues that round us wait
And wake the dark decrees of Fate ;
Ascend this ladder, whence unfurl'd
The curtain opes of t' other world,
For here new worlds their scenes unfold,
Seen from this back-door of the old †.

As

* There is in this scene, a general allusion to the appearance and speech of Hector's ghost, in the second book of the *Æneid*.

† That the gallows is the *back-door* leading from this to the

As when Æneas risqu'd his life,
 Like Orpheus vent'ring for his wife,
 And bore in show his mortal carcase,
 Thro' realms of Erebus and Orcus,
 Then in the happy fields Elysian,
 Saw all his embryon sons in vision:
 As, shown by great archangel, Michael,
 Old Adam saw the world's whole sequel,
 And from the mount's extended space,
 The rising fortunes of his race;
 So from this stage shalt thou behold,
 The war its coming scenes unfold,
 Rais'd by my arm to meet thine eye;
 My Adam, thou, thine Angel, I.
 But first my pow'r for visions * bright,
 Must cleanse from clouds thy mental sight,
 Remove the dim suffusions spread,
 Which bribes and fal'ries there have bred;
 And, from the well of Bute, infuse
 Three genuine drops of Highland dews,
 To purge, like euphrasy and rue,
 Thine eyes, for much thou hast to view.

“ Now, freed from Tory darkness, raise
 Thy head, and spy the coming days;

other world, is a perfectly new idea in Epic Poetry; unless
 the hint might have been taken from the rear-trumpet of Fame
 in our Hudibras. *Edit.*

* See Milton's Paradise Lost, Book 11.

For

For lo, before our second-fight,
The Continent ascends in light;
From north to south, what gath'ring swarms,
Increase the pride of rebel arms!
Thro' ev'ry State our legions brave,
Speed gallant marches to the grave,
Of battling Whigs the frequent prize,
While rebel trophies stain the skies.
Behold, o'er northern realms afar*,
Extend the kindling flames of war!

* Nothing less than the whole History of the American War would be sufficient, completely to illustrate the merits of this single paragraph. Malcolm, the gallows-taught prophet, in preparing the mind of M'Fingal to contemplate, with proper intelligence, the various scenes that are to rise successively to view in the course of the Vision, glances over the Continent, and mentions in this passage the principal scenes of action, from the expedition into Canada in 1775, to the capture of Lord Cornwallis in 1781. The concluding part of his speech is therefore a kind of *argument* to this whole book of Vision; in which the same objects are unfolded at large with their attendant circumstances; in order that they may make a proper impression on the elevated mind of the great M'Fingal. It is thus that our Poet, like Homer, his illustrious predecessor, seizes all occasions to do honour to his principal hero. By supposing him already possessed of all natural and political knowledge that could be obtained by mortal study and experience, he makes him, like Achilles, capable of receiving instruction only by the agency of a super-terrestrial power. The advisers of Achilles descended from the skies, that of M'Fingal is mounted towards the skies.

Edit.

See

See fam'd St. John's and Montreal,
Doom'd by Montgom'ry's arm to fall!
Where Hudfon with majestic fway,
Thro' hills difparted plows his way;
Fate fpreads on Bemus' Heights alarms,
And pours deftruction on our arms;
There Bennington's enfanguin'd plain,
And Stony-Point, the prize of Wayne.
Behold near Del'ware's icy roar,
Where morning dawns on Trenton's fhore,
While Hefians fpread their Christmas feafts,
Rufh rude thefe uninvited guefts;
Nor aught avail, to Whigs a prize,
Their martial whifkers' grifly fize.
On Princeton plains our heroes yield,
And fpread in flight the vanquifh'd field,
While fear to Mawhood's heels puts on
Wings, wide as worn by Maia's fon.
Behold the Pennfylvanian fhore,
Enrich'd with freams of British gore;
Where many a vet'ran chief in bed
Of honour refts his flumb'ring head,
And in foft vales in land of foes,
Their wearied virtue finds repofe.
See plund'ring Dunmore's negro band
Fly headlong from Virginia's ftrand;
And far on fouthern hills, our coufins,
The Scotch M'Donalds, fall by dozens;

Or

Or where King's Mountain lifts its head,
 Our ruin'd bands in triumph led!
 Behold o'er Tarleton's blustering train,
 The Rebels stretch the captive chain!
 Afar near Eutaw's fatal springs
 Descending Vict'ry spreads her wings!
 Thro' all the land in various chace,
 We hunt the rainbow of success;
 In vain! their Chief, superior still,
 Eludes our force with Fabian skill;
 Or swift descending by surprize,
 Like Prussia's eagle sweeps the prize."

" I look'd, nor yet, oppress'd with fears,
 Gave credit to my eyes or ears,
 But held the views an empty dream,
 On Berkely's immaterial scheme;
 And pond'ring sad with troubled breast
 At length my rising doubts express'd.
 " Ah, whither, thus by rebels smitten,
 Is fled th' omnipotence of Britain,
 Or fail'd its usual guard to keep,
 Gone traunting or fall'n asleep * ;

* " Cry aloud: for he is god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth.—And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets." 1 *Kings*, chap. xviii. The other original subjects alluded to in the subsequent part of this speech, may be found by the curious reader in the various and immortal works mentioned by the poet in the text. *Edit.*

As

As Baal his prophets left confounded,
And bawling vot'ries gash'd and wounded?
Did not, retir'd to bow'rs Elysian,
Great Mars leave with her his commission,
And Neptune erst, in treaty free,
Give up dominion o'er the sea?
Else where's the faith of fam'd orations,
Address, debate, and proclamations,
Or courtly sermon, laureat ode,
And ballads on the wat'ry God;
With whose high strains great George enriches
His eloquence of gracious speeches?
Not faithful to our Highland eyes,
These deadly forms of vision rise;
But sure some Whig-inspiring sprite
Now palms delusion on our fight.
I'd scarcely trust a tale so vain,
Should revelation prompt the strain,
Or Ossian's ghost the scenes rehearse,
In all the melody of * Erse."

" Too long, quoth Malcolm, with confusion,
You've dwelt already in delusion,
As Sceptics, of all fools the chief,
Hold faith in creeds of unbelief.
I come to draw thy veil aside
Of error, prejudice, and pride.

* Erse, the ancient Scottish language, in which Ossian wrote his poems.

Fools love deception, but the wise
Prefer sad truths to pleasing lies.
For know, those hopes can ne'er succeed
That trust on Britain's breaking reed.
For weak'ning long from bad to worse,
By fatal atrophy of purse,
She feels at length with trembling heart,
Her foes have found her mortal part.
As fam'd Achilles, dipt by Thetis
In Styx, as sung in antient ditties,
Grew all case-harden'd o'er like steel,
Invulnerable, save his heel,
And laugh'd at fwords and spears, as squibs,
And all diseases, but the kibes;
Yet met at last his fatal wound,
By Paris' arrow nail'd to th' ground:
So Britain's boasted strength deserts,
In these her empire's utmost skirts,
Remov'd beyond her fierce impressions,
And atmosphere of omnipresence;
Nor to these shores remoter ends,
Her dwarf omnipotence extends:
Whence in this turn of things so strange,
'Tis time our principles to change.
For vain that boasted faith, which gathers
No perquisite, but tar and feathers,
No pay, but Whig's insulting malice,
And no promotion, but the gallows.

I've long enough stood firm and steady,
Half-hang'd for loyalty already :
And could I save my neck and pelf,
I'd turn a flaming Whig myself,
And quit this cause, and course, and calling,
Like rats that fly from house that's falling.
But since, obnoxious here to Fate,
This saving wisdom comes too late,
Our noblest hopes already crost,
Our fal'ries gone, our titles lost,
Doom'd to worse suff'rings from the mob,
Than Satan's surg'ries used on Job ;
What more remains but now with sleight,
What's left of us to save by flight ?

“ Now raise thine eyes ; for visions true
Again ascending wait thy view.”

I look'd ; and clad in early light,
The spires of Boston rose to fight ;
The morn o'er eastern hills afar,
Illum'd the varying scenes of war.
Great Howe had long since in the lap
Of Loring taken out his nap,
And with the sun's ascending ray,
The cuckold came to take his pay.
When all th' encircling hills around,
With instantaneous breast-works crown'd,
With pointed thunders met his fight,
By magic rear'd the former night.

Each

Each summit, far as eye commands,
Shone peopled with rebellious bands.
Aloft their tow'ring heroes rise,
As Titans erst assail'd the skies,
Leagu'd with superior force to prove,
The scepter'd hand of British Jove.
Mounds, pil'd on hills, ascended fair
With batt'ries plac'd in middle air,
That, rais'd like angry clouds on high,
Seem'd like th' artill'ry of the sky,
And hurl'd their fiery bolts amain,
In thunder on the trembling plain,
I saw along the prostrate strand,
Our baffl'd Gen'als quit the land,
And, swift as frightened mermaids, flee,
T' our boasted element, the sea!
Resign that long contested shore,
Again the prize of rebel-power,
And tow'rd their town of refuge fly,
Like convict Jews, condemn'd to die.

Then tow'rd the north, I turn'd my eyes,
Where Saratoga's heights arise,
And saw our chosen vet'ran band,
Descend in terror o'er the land;
T' oppose this fury of alarms,
Saw all New-England wake to arms,
And ev'ry Yanky, full of mettle,
Swarm forth, like bees at sound of kettle,

Not Rome, when Tarquin rap'd Lucretia,
Saw wilder must'ring of militia.
Thro' all the woods and plains of fight,
What mortal battles fill'd my fight,
While British corpes strew'd the shore,
And Hudson ting'd his streams with gore !
What tongue can tell the dismal day,
Or paint the party-colour'd fray ;
When yeomen left their fields afar,
To plow the crimson plains of war ;
When zeal to swords transform'd their shares,
And turn'd their pruning-hooks to spears,
Chang'd tailor's geese to guns and ball,
And stretch'd to pikes the cobbler's awl ;
While hunters fierce, like mighty Nimrod,
Made on our troops a daring inroad ;
And lev'lling squint on barrel round,
Brought our beau-officers to ground ;
While rifle-frocks sent Gen'als cap'ring,
And redcoats shrunk from leathern apron,
And epaulette and gorget run
From whinyard brown and rusty gun :
While sun-burnt wigs in high command,
Rush furious on our frightened band,
And ancient beards and hoary hair,
Like meteors stream in troubled air.
With locks unshorne not Samson more
Made useless all the show of war,

Nor

Nor fought with asses jaw for rarity,
With more success or singularity.
I saw our vet'ran thousands yield
And pile their muskets on the field,
And peasant guards, in rueful plight,
March off our captur'd bands from fight;
While ev'ry rebel-life in play,
To Yanky-doodle tun'd its lay,
And like the music of the spheres,
Mellifluous sooth'd their vanquish'd ears.

“ Alas, said I, what baleful star,
Sheds fatal influence on the war,
And who that chosen Chief of fame,
That heads this grand parade of shame?”

“ There see how Fate, great Malcolm cried,
Strikes with its bolts the tow'rs of pride.
Behold that martial Macaroni,
Compound of Phœbus and Bellona,
With warlike sword and sing-song lay,
Equipp'd alike for feast or fray,
Where equal wit and valour join;
This, this is he, the fam'd Burgoyne:
Who pawn'd his honour and commission,
To coax the Patriots to submission,
By songs and balls secure obedience,
And dance the ladies to allegiance.
Oft his camp muses he'll parade,
At Boston in the grand blockade,

And

And well invok'd with punch of arrack,
Hold converse sweet in tent or barrack,
Inspir'd in more heroic fashion,
Both by his theme and situation ;
While Farce and Proclamation grand,
Rise fair beneath his plastic hand.
For genius swells more strong and clear
When close confin'd, like bottl'd beer :
So Prior's wit gain'd greater pow'r,
By inspiration of the tow'r ;
And Raleigh, fast in prison hurl'd,
Wrote all the Hist'ry of the World :
So Wilkes grew, while in goal he lay,
More patriotic ev'ry day,
But found his zeal, when not confin'd,
Soon sink below the freezing point,
And public spirit, once so fair,
Evaporate in open air.
But thou, great favorite of Venus,
By no such luck shalt cramp thy genius ;
Thy friendly stars till wars shall cease,
Shall ward th' ill fortune of release,
And hold thee fast in bonds not feeble,
In good condition still to scribble.
Such merit Fate shall shield from firing,
Bomb, carcase, langridge, and cold iron,
Nor trusts thy doubly laurell'd head,
To rude assaults of flying lead.

Hence

Hence in this Saratogue retreat,
For pure good fortune thou'lt be beat ;
Not taken oft, releas'd or rescu'd,
Pass for small change, like simple Prescott * ;
But captur'd there, as Fates befall,
Shall stand thy hand for't, once for all.
Then raise thy daring thoughts sublime,
And dip thy conqu'ring pen in rhyme,
And changing war for puns and jokes,
Write new Blockades and Maids of Oaks †."

This said, he turn'd, and saw the tale
Had dy'd my trembling cheeks with pale ;

* General Prescott was taken and exchanged several times during the war. *Edit.*

† The Maid of the Oaks and the Blockade of Boston, are farces—the first acknowledged by General Burgoyne, the other generally ascribed to him.

The Editors cannot avoid congratulating the public on the great advantage rendered to this, his mother-country, by that rebel General Gates. By sending us the illustrious Burgoyne under such a capitulation, as to confine him here *in good condition still to scribble*, during the remainder of the war, he procured to the theatre of our capital, an amusement which leaves us no occasion to envy the happiness of the Bostonians during the siege ; as the *Heirefs* is thought by the best critics to be at least equal to the *Maid of Oaks*. This is an additional proof of the prophetic spirit of Malcolm, who clearly foresaw that such a work would be the produce of this timely capture.

Edit.

Then

Then, pitying, in a milder vein
Pursu'd the visionary strain.

“ Too much, perhaps, hath pain'd your views
Of vict'ries gain'd by rebel crews ;
Now see the deeds, not small nor scanty,
Of British Valour and Human'ty ;
And learn from this auspicious fight,
How England's sons and friends can fight,
In what dread scenes their courage grows,
And how they conquer all their foes.”

I look'd and saw in wintry skies
Our spacious prison-walls arise,
Where Britons all their captives taming,
Plied them with scourging, cold, and famine ;
Reduc'd to life's concluding stages,
By noxious food and plagues contagious.
Aloft the mighty * Loring stood,
And thriv'd, like † Vampyre, on their blood ;
And

* Loring was a Refugee from Boston, made commissary of prisoners by General Howe. The consummate cruelties practised on the American prisoners under Loring's administration almost exceed the ordinary powers of human invention. If a simple statement of facts relative to this business were properly drawn up and authenticated, it would furnish the friends of humanity with new images of horror in contemplating the ravages of war ; especially a war that obtains the name of Rebellion, and is carried on at a distance from the eye of the nation. The conduct of the Turks in putting all prisoners to death

And counting all his gains arising,
 Dealt daily rations out of poison.
 Amid the dead that croud the scene,
 The moving skeletons were seen.
 At hand our troops in vaunting strains,
 Insulted all their wants and pains,
 And turn'd on all the dying tribe,
 The bitter taunt and scornful gibe :
 And British officers of might,
 Triumphant at the joyful fight,
 O'er foes disarm'd with courage daring,
 Exhausted all their tropes of swearing.
 Around all stain'd with rebel blood,
 Like Milton's lazaret-house it stood,
 Where grim Despair attended nurse,
 And Death was Gov'rnor of the house.
 Amaz'd, I cried, " Is this the way,
 That British Valour wins the day ?"

death is certainly much more rational and humane, than that of the British army for the three first years of the American war, or till after the capture of Burgoyne. We except from this general observation, the conduct of Lord Dorchester in Canada ; he acted on the common principles of war, as now practised in Europe.

Edit.

† The notion of Vampyres is a superstition, that has greatly prevailed in many parts of Europe. They pretend it is a dead body, which rises out of its grave in the night, and sucks the blood of the living.

Q

More

More had I said, in strains unwelcome,
Till interrupted thus by Malcolm :
“ Blame not, quoth he, but learn the reason
Of this new mode of conqu’ring treason.
’Tis but a wise, politic plan,
To root out all the rebel-clan ;
(For surely treason ne’er can thrive,
Where not a soul is left alive :)
A scheme, all other chiefs to surpass,
And do th’ effectual work to purpose.
For war itself is nothing further,
But th’ art and mystery of murder,
And who most methods has essay’d,
Is the best Gen’ral of the trade,
And stands Death’s Plenipotentiary,
To conquer, poison, starve, and bury.
This Howe well knew, and thus began,
(Despising Carleton’s coaxing plan,
Who kept his pris’ners well and merry,
And dealt them food like Commissary,
And by paroles and ransoms vain,
Dismiss’d them all to fight again :)
Whence his first captives, with great spirit,
He tied up for his troops to fire * at,

* This was done openly and without censure by the troops under Howe’s command in many instances, on his first conquest of Long-Island.

And

And hop'd they'd learn, on foes thus taken,
To aim at rebels without shaking.
Then, wise in stratagem, he plann'd
The sure destruction of the land,
Turn'd famine, sickness, and despair,
To useful enginry of war,
Instead of cannon, musket, mortar,
Us'd pestilence, and death, and torture,
Sent forth the small-pox, and the greater,
To thin the land of ev'ry traitor,
And order'd out with like endeavour,
Detachments of the prison-fever;
Spread desolation o'er their head,
And plagues in Providence's stead,
Perform'd with equal skill and beauty,
Th' avenging angel's tour of duty,
Brought all the elements to join,
And stars t' assist the great design;
As once in league with Kishon's brook,
Fam'd Israel's foes they fought and took.
Then proud to raise a glorious name,
And em'lous of his country's fame,
He bade these prison-walls arise,
Like temple tow'ring to the skies,
Where British Clemency renown'd,
Might fix her seat on sacred ground;
(That Virtue, as each herald saith,
Of whole blood kin to Punic Faith;)

Q 2

Where

Where all her God-like pow'rs unveiling,
She finds a grateful shrine to dwell in.
Then, at this altar for her honour,
Chose this High-priest to wait upon her,
Who with just rites, in ancient guises,
Presents these human sacrifices;
Great Loring, fam'd above all laymen,
A proper Priest for Lybian Ammon,
Who, while Howe's gift his brows adorns,
Had match'd that deity in horns.
Here ev'ry day her vot'ries tell
She more devours than th' idol Bel;
And thirsts more rav'nously for gore,
Than any worshipp'd Power before.
That ancient Heathen Godhead, Moloch,
Oft stay'd his stomach with a bullock,
Or if his morning rage you'd check first,
One child suffic'd him for a breakfast.
But British Clemency, with zeal,
Devours her hundreds at a meal;
Right well by Nat'ralists defined,
A Being of carniv'rous kind:
So erst * Gargantua pleas'd his palate,
And eat his pilgrims up for fallad.
Not blest with maw less ceremonious,
The wide-mouth'd whale that swallow'd Jonas;

* See Rabelais's History of the Giant Gargantua.

Like

Like earthquake gapes, to death devote,
That open sepulchre, her throat;
The grave, or barren womb you'd stuff,
And sooner bring to cry, enough;
Or fatten up to fair condition,
The lean-flesh'd kine of Pharaoh's vision.

“ Behold her temple where it stands
Erect by fam'd Britannic hands;
'Tis the Black-hole of Indian structure,
New-built with English architecture,
On plan, 'tis said, contriv'd and wrote,
By Clive, before he cut his throat;
Who ere he took himself in hand,
Was her High-priest in Nabob-land:
And when with conqu'ring glory crown'd,
He'd well enslav'd the nation round,
With pitying heart the gen'rous chief,
(Since slav'ry's worse than loss of life,)
Bade desolation circle far,
And famine end the work of war;
Thus loos'd their chains, and for their merits,
Dismiss them free to worlds of spirits;
Whence they with gratitude and praise,
Return'd * t' attend his latter days,

* Clive in the latter years of his life conceived himself perpetually haunted by the ghosts of those, who were the victims of his British humanity in the East-Indies.

And

And hov'ring round his restless bed,
Spread nightly visions o'er his head.

“ Now turn, he cried, to nobler fights,
And mark the prowess of our fights :
Behold, like whelps of British Lion,
The warriors, Clinton, Vaughan, and Tryon,
March forth with patriotic joy,
To ravish, plunder, burn, destroy.
Great Gen'als, foremost in the nation,
The journeymen of Desolation !
Like Samson's foxes each assails,
Let loose with firebrands in their tails,
And spreads destruction more forlorn,
Than they did in Philistine corn.
And see in flames their triumphs rise,
Illuming all the nether skies,
And streaming, like a new Aurora,
The western hemisphere with glory !
What towns, in ashes laid, confess
These heroes' prowess and success !
What blacken'd walls, or burning fane,
For trophies spread the ruin'd plain !
What females, caught in evil hour,
By force submit to British power,
Or plunder'd Negroes in disaster
Confess King George their lord and master !
What crimson corpses strew their way
Till smoaking carnage dims the day !

Along

Along the shore, for sure reduction,
They wield their besom of destruction.
Great Homer likens, in his Ilias,
To dog-star bright the fierce Achilles;
But ne'er beheld in red procession,
Three dog-stars rise in constellation;
Or saw in glooms of ev'ning misty,
Such signs of fiery triplicity,
Which far beyond the comet's tail,
Portend destruction where they fail.
Oh! had Great-Britain's god-like shore,
Produc'd but ten such heroes more,
They'd spar'd the pains, and held the
Of this world's final conflagration,
Which, when its time comes, at a stand,
Would find its work all done t' its hand!

“ Yet tho' gay hopes our eyes may bless;
Indignant fate forbids success;
Like morning dreams our conquest flies,
Dispers'd before the dawn arise.”

Here Malcolm paus'd; when, pond'ring long,
Grief thus gave utt'rance to my tongue.

“ Where shrink in fear our friends dismay'd,
And all the Tories' promis'd aid?
Can none amid these fierce alarms
Assist the pow'r of royal arms?”

“ In vain, he cried, our king depends,
On promis'd aid of Tory-friends,

When our own efforts want success,
Friends ever fail as fears increase.
As leaves, in blooming verdure wove,
In warmth of summer cloath the grove,
But when autumnal frosts arise,
Leave bare their trunks to wintry skies;
So while your pow'r can aid their ends,
You ne'er can need ten thousand friends,
But, once in want by foes dismay'd,
May advertise them stol'n or stray'd.
Thus, ere Great-Britain's strength grew slack,
She gain'd that aid, she did not lack,
But now in dread, imploring pity,
All hear unmov'd her dol'rous ditty;
Allegiance wand'ring turns astray,
And faith grows dim for lack of pay.
In vain she tries by new inventions,
Fear, falshood, flatt'ry, threats, and pensions,
Or sends Commiss'ners with credentials *
Of promises and penitentials.

As

* The passage that here follows is to be explained thus:
In the year 1778, after the war had been raging three years,
and we had heard of the capture of Burgoyne's army, our
good government concluded to give up all the objects for
which the contest had been begun. It accordingly passed an
act repealing all the acts of which the Americans complained,
provided they would rescind their declaration of Independence,
and continue to be our colonies. The Ministry then sent over
three

As, for his fare o'er Styx of old,
 The Trojan stole the bough of gold,
 And, lest grim Cerb'rus should make head,
 Stuff'd both his fobs with * gingerbread;
 Behold at Britain's utmost shifts,
 Comes Johnstone, loaded with like gifts,
 To venture thro' the Whiggish tribe,
 To cuddle, wheedle, coax, and bribe,
 Enter their lands, and on his journey,
 Possession take, as King's Attorney,
 Buy all the vassals to protect him,
 And ~~bribe~~ the tenants not t' eject him;
 And call, to aid his desp'rate mission,
 His petticoated politician,
 While Venus, join'd t' assist the farce,
 Strolls forth ambassador for Mars.

three Commissioners, Mr. Johnstone, Mr. Eden, and a certain Lord, whose name the Editors have forgot. These commissioners (whether in imitation of Eneas, as the Poet supposes, or whether in pursuance of the great system of Sir Robert Walpole, as a politician would suppose, we cannot tell; the conjectures of every one are apt to run in the channel of his own trade,) began their operations, and finished them, by attempting to bribe individuals among the members of the States, and of the army. This bait appears to have caught nobody but Arnold. The *petticoated politician*, here mentioned, is a woman of Philadelphia, through whose agency they are said to have offered a bribe to Joseph Read, Governor of Pennsylvania.

Edit.

* ——— Medicatam frugibus offam. *Æneid. lib. vi. 410.*

R

In

In vain he strives, (for while he lingers,
 These mastiffs bite his off'ring fingers,)
 Nor buys for George and realms infernal,
 One spaniel, but the mongrel Arnold.
 'Twere vain to paint in vision'd show,
 The mighty nothings done by Howe;
 What towns he takes in mortal fray,
 As stations, whence to run away;
 What conquests gain'd in battles warm,
 To us no aid, to them no harm;
 For still th' event alike is fatal,
 Whate'er success attend the battle,
 If he gain victory, or lose it,
 Who ne'er had skill enough to use it;
 And better 'twere, at their expence,
 T' have drubb'd him into common sense,
 And wak'd by bastings on his rear,
 Th' activity, tho' but of fear.
 By slow advance his arms prevail,
 Like emblematic march of snail;
 That, be Millennium nigh or far,
 'Twould long before him end the war.
 From York to Philadelphian ground,
 He sweeps the mighty flourish round,
 Wheel'd circ'lar by excentric stars,
 Like racing boys at Prison-bars *,

Who

* *Prison-bars* is a kind of juvenile contest sufficiently described here. How far our author is justifiable in comparing

Who take the adverse crew in whole,
 By running round the opp'site goal;
 Works wide the traverse of his course,
 Like ship in storms' opposing force,
 Like mill-horse, circling in his race,
 Advances not a single pace,
 And leaves no trophies of reduction,
 Save that-of canker-worms, destruction.
 Thus, having long both countries curst,
 He quits them, as he found them first,
 Steers home disgrac'd, of little worth,
 To join Burgoyne, and rail at North.

“ Now raise thine eyes, and view with pleasure,
 The triumphs of his fam'd successor.”
 I look'd, and now by magic lore,
 Faint rose to view the Jersey shore;
 But dimly seen, in glooms array'd,
 For Night had pour'd her sable shade,
 And ev'ry star, with glimm'rings pale,
 Was muffled deep in ev'ning veil:
 Scarce visible in dusky night,
 Advancing Red-coats * rose to fight;

to it the operations of General Howe in America, we leave
 to be determined by those military men who know the history
 of his manœuvres.

Edit.

* *Red-coats*, a term for British-troops.

Edit.

The lengthen'd train, in gleaming rows,
 Stole silent from their flumb'ring foes,
 Slow mov'd the baggage, and the train,
 Like snails, crept noiseless o'er the plain;
 No trembling soldier dar'd to speak,
 And not a wheel presum'd to creak.
 My looks my new surprize confess'd,
 Till by great Malcolm thus address'd :
 " Spend not thy wits in vain researches ;
 'Tis one of Clinton's moon-light marches.
 From Philadelphia now retreating,
 To save his anxious troops a beating,
 With hasty stride he flies in vain,
 His rear attack'd on Monmouth plain;
 With various chance the mortal fray
 Is lengthen'd to the close of day,
 When his tir'd bands, o'ermatch'd in fight,
 Are rescu'd by descending night ;
 He forms his camp with vain parade,
 Till ev'ning spreads the world with shade,
 Then still, like some endanger'd spark,
 Steals off on tiptoe in the dark ;
 Yet writes his king, in boasting tone,
 How grand he march'd by light of moon *.

I see

* The circumstance of Gen. Clinton's official dispatches,
 giving an account of his marching from Monmouth by moon-
 light, furnished a subject of some pleasantry in America ;
 where

I see him, but thou can'st not ; proud
He leads in front the trembling crowd,
And wisely knows, if danger's near,
'Twill fall the heaviest on his rear.
Go on, great Gen'ral, nor regard
The scoffs of ev'ry scribbling Bard,
Who sing how Gods that fatal night
Aided by miracles your flight,
As once they us'd, in Homer's day,
To help weak heroes run away ;
Tell how the hours at awful trial,
Went back, as erst on Ahaz' dial,
While British Joshua stay'd the moon,
On Monmouth plains, for Ajalon :
Heed not their sneers and gibes so arch,
Because she set before your march.
A small mistake, your meaning right,
You take her influence for her light ;
Her influence, which shall be your guide,
And o'er your Gen'ralship preside.
Hence still shall teem your empty skull,
With vict'ries when the moon's at full,
Which by transiion yet more strange,
Wane to defeats before the change ;
Hence all your movements, all your notions,
Shall steer by like excentric motions,

where it was known that the moon had set two hours before
the march began.

Edit,
Eclips'd

Eclips'd in many a fatal crisis,
And dimm'd when Washington arises.

And see how Fate, herself turn'd traitor,
Inverts the ancient course of nature,
And changes manners, tempers, climes,
To suit the genius of the times.
See Bourbon forms his gen'rous plan,
First guardian of the rights of man,
And prompt in firm alliance joins,
To aid the Rebels proud designs.
Behold from realms of eastern day,
His sails innum'rous shape their way,
In warlike line the billows sweep,
And roll the thunders of the deep.
See, low in equinoctial skies,
The Western Islands fall their prize.
See British flags, o'ermatch'd in might,
Put all their faith in instant flight,
Or broken squadrons from th' affray,
Drag slow their wounded hulks away.
Behold his chiefs in daring sets,
D'Estaings, De Grasses, and Fayettees,
Spread thro' our camps their dread alarms,
And swell the fears of rebel-arms.
Yet, ere our empire sink in night,
One gleam of hope shall strike the fight;
As lamps that fail of oil and fire,
Collect one glimm'ring to expire.

And

And lo where southern shores extend,
Behold our union'd hosts descend,
Where Charlestown views, with varying beams,
Her turrets gild th' encircling streams.
There by superior might compell'd,
Behold their gallant Lincoln yield *,
Nor aught the wreaths avail him now,
Pluck'd from Burgoyne's imperious brow.
See, furious from the vanquish'd strand,
Cornwallis leads his mighty band!
The southern realms and Georgian shore
Submit, and own the victor's pow'r.
Lo, sunk before his wasting way,
The Carolinas fall his prey!
In vain embattl'd hosts of foes
Essay in warring strife t' oppose.
See, shrinking from his conqu'ring eye,
The rebel legions fall or fly;
And, with'ring in these torrid skies,
The northern laurel fades and dies †.

* General Lincoln was second in command in the army of General Gates, during the campaign of 1777, which ended in the capture of General Burgoyne. He is an officer of great reputation. He afterwards commanded the army in South-Carolina, and was taken prisoner with the garrison of Charlestown in 1780. *Edit.*

† This refers to the fortune of General Gates, who after having conquered General Burgoyne in the North, was defeated by Lord Cornwallis in the South. *Edit.*

With rapid force he leads his band
 To fair Virginia's fated strand,
 Triumphant eyes the travell'd zone,
 And boasts the southern realms his own.
 Nor yet this hero's glories bright
 Blaze only in the fields of fight ;
 Not Howe's human'ty more deserving,
 In gifts of hanging, and of starving ;
 Not Arnold plunders more tobacco,
 Or steals more Negroes for Jamaica * ;
 Scarce Rodney's self, among th' Eustatians,
 Insults so well the laws of nations ;
 Ev'n Tryon's fame grows dim, and mourning,
 He yields the laurel crown of burning.
 I see with rapture and surprize,
 New triumphs sparkling in thine eyes ;
 But view, where now renew'd in might,
 Again the rebels dare the fight."

I look'd, and far in southern skies,
 Saw Greene, their second hope, arise,
 And with his small but gallant band,
 Invade the Carolinian land.

* Arnold, in the year 1781, having been converted to our cause, commanded a detachment of our army in Virginia; where he plundered many cargoes of negroes and of tobacco, and sent them to Jamaica for his own account. How far the Lords Rodney and Cornwallis might have excelled him in this kind of heroic achievements, time will perhaps never discover.

Edit.

As

As winds in stormy circles whirl'd
Rush billowing o'er the darken'd world,
And, where their wasting fury roves,
Successive sweep th' astonish'd groves.
Thus where he pours the rapid fight,
Our boasted conquests sink in night,
And wide o'er all th' extended field,
Our forts resign, our armies yield,
Till, now regain'd the vanquish'd land,
He lifts his standard on the strand.

Again to fair Virginia's coast,
I turn'd and view'd the British host,
Where Chesapeak's wide waters lave
Her shores, and join th' Atlantic wave.
There fam'd Cornwallis tow'ring rose,
And scorn'd secure his distant foes ;
His bands the haughty rampart raise,
And bid the royal standard blaze.
When lo, where ocean's bounds extend,
I saw the Gallic sails ascend,
With fav'ring breezes stem their way,
And croud with ships the spacious bay.
Lo, Washington, from northern shores,
O'er many a region, wheels his force,
And Rochambeau, with legions bright,
Descends in terrors to the fight.
Not swifter cleaves his rapid way,
The eagle cowering o'er his prey,

Or knights in fam'd romance that fly
 On fairy pinions thro' the sky.
 Amaz'd the Briton's startl'd pride,
 Sees ruin wake on ev'ry side;
 And, all his troops to fate consign'd,
 By instantaneous stroke Burgoyne'd *.
 Not Cadmus view'd with more surprize,
 From earth embattl'd armies rise,
 When, by superior pow'r impell'd,
 He sow'd with dragon's teeth the field.
 Here Gallic troops in terror stand,
 There rush in arms the Rebel band;
 Nor hope remains from mortal fight,
 Or that last British refuge, flight.
 I saw, with looks downcast and grave,
 The Chief emerging from his † cave,

* As great revolutions give birth to new ideas, and enlarge the scope of human knowledge, so likewise they enrich language by the addition of new words. From the French word *lanterne*, which signifies a lamp-post, and from the circumstance of some men being hanged on such a post in Paris during the revolution, the language of that country is enriched with a new verb; a circumstance well known at Saratoga, has likewise given a new verb to our own: *lanterner*, in French (speaking of a man) signifies to hang him, — *to Burgoyne*, in English, (speaking of an army) signifies to take them all prisoners. *Vive la Revolution!* Edit.

† Alluding to the well-known fact of Cornwallis's taking up his residence in a cave, during the siege of York-Town.

(Where

(Where, chac'd like hare in mighty round,
His hunters earth'd him first in ground,)
And, doom'd by Fate to rebel sway,
Yield all his captur'd hosts a prey.

There, while I view'd the vanquish'd town,
Thus with a sigh my friend went on:

“ Beholdst thou not that band forlorn,
Like slaves in Roman triumphs borne;
Their faces length'ning with their fears,
And cheeks distain'd with streams of tears,
Like *dramatis personæ* sage,
Equipt to act on Tyburn's stage.
Lo these are they, who, lur'd by follies,
Left all and follow'd great Cornwallis;
True to their King, with firm devotion,
For conscience sake and hop'd promotion,
Expectant of the promis'd glories,
And new Millennial state of Tories.
Alas! in vain, all doubts forgetting,
They tried th' omnipotence of Britain;
But found her arm, once strong and brave,
So shorten'd now she cannot save.
Not more aghast departed souls,
Who risk'd their fate on Popish bulls,
And find St. Peter at the wicket
Refuse to countersign their ticket,
When driv'n to purgatory back,
With all their pardons in their pack:

Than Tories must'ring at their stations
On faith of royal proclamations.
As Pagan Chiefs at ev'ry crisis,
Confirm'd their leagues by sacrifices,
And herds of beasts to all their deities,
Oblations fell at close of treaties :
Cornwallis thus, in ancient fashion,
Concludes his league of cap'tulation,
And victims, due to Rebel-glories,
Gives this fin-off'ring up of Tories.
See where, reliev'd from sad embargo,
Steer off consign'd a recreant cargo,
Like old scape-goats to roam in pain,
Mark'd like their great fore-runner, Cain,
The rest, now doom'd by British leagues,
To justice of resentful Whigs,
Hold worthless lives on tenure ill,
Of tenancy at Rebel-will,
While hov'ring o'er their forfeit persons,
The gallows waits his fure reversions.

“ Thou too, M'Fingal, ere that day,
Shalt taste the terrors of th' affray.
See o'er thee hangs in angry skies,
Where Whiggish constellations rise,
And while plebeian signs ascend,
Their mob-inspiring aspects bend,

That

That baleful Star, whose * horrid hair
 Shakes forth the plagues of down and tar !
 I see the pole, that rears on high
 Its flag terrific thro' the sky ;
 'The Mob beneath prepar'd t' attack,
 And tar predestin'd for thy back !
 Ah ! quit, my friend, this dang'rous home,
 Nor wait the darker scenes to come ;
 For know that Fate's auspicious door,
 Once shut to flight, is op'd no more,
 Nor wears its hinge by various stations,
 Like Mercy's door in proclamations †.

“ But lest thou pause, or doubt to fly,
 To stranger visions turn thine eye :
 Each cloud that dimm'd thy mental ray,
 And all the mortal mists decay ;

* ——— From his horrid hair
 Shakes pestilence and war.

MILTON.

† *The door of mercy is now open, and the door of mercy will be shut*, were phrases so often used in the proclamations of British Generals in America, that our timorous Poet seems to fear that the hinge of that door will be worn out. A general collection of these proclamations, or an abridgement of them comprised in a few volumes, would form a curious system of rhetorical tactics ; which might be of great utility to the French emigrant princes, and to those potentates of Europe, who are going to subdue the spirit of Liberty in France. *Edit.*

See

See more than human Pow'rs befriend,
And lo, their hostile forms ascend!
See tow'ring o'er th' extended strand,
The Genius of the western land,
In vengeance arm'd, his sword assumes,
And stands, like Tories, drest in plumes.
See o'er yon Council seat with pride,
How Freedom spreads her banners wide!
There Patriotism with torch address'd,
To fire with zeal each daring breast!
While all the Virtues in their band,
Escape from yon unfriendly land,
Desert their ancient British station,
Possess with rage of emigration.
Honour, his business at a stand,
For fear of starving quits the land;
And Justice, long disgraced at Court, had
By Mansfield's sentence been transported.
Vict'ry and Fame attend their way,
Tho' Britain wish their longer stay,
Care not what George or North would be at,
Nor heed their writs of *ne exeat*;
But, fir'd with love of colonizing,
Quit the fall'n empire for the rising."

I look'd, and saw, with horror smitten,
These hostile pow'rs averse to Britain.
When lo, an awful spectre rose,
With languid paleness on his brows;

Wan

Wan dropfies fwell'd his form beneath,
And ic'd his bloated cheeks with death ;
His tatter'd robe expofed him bare,
To ev'ry blast of ruder air ;
On two weak crutches propt he flood,
That bent at ev'ry ftep he trod,
Gilt titles grac'd their fides fo flender,
One, " Regulation," t'other, " Tender ;"
His breast-plate grav'd with various dates,
" The faith of all th' United States :"
Before him went his fun'ral pall,
His grave flood dug to wait his fall.
I ftarted, and aghaft I cry'd,
" What means this fpectre at their fide ?
What danger from a Pow'r fo vain,
And why he joins that fplendid train ?"
" Alas, great Malcolm cry'd, experience
Might teach you not to truft appearance.
Here ftands, as drest by fierce Bellona,
The ghofth of Continental Money *,

OF

* The description here given of the Continental paper-money is not more remarkable as a fplendid example of the fublime burlefque, than as a faithful picture of that financial operation. The hiftory of this meafure has not been well underftood in Europe ; it has, therefore, been generally condemned by thofe theorists who have had occafion to refer to it. They condemn it as having been *unnecessary* in its origin, and *unequal* in its operation. The former opinion, doubtlefs, arifes

Of dame Necessity descended,
With whom Credulity engender'd.

arises from a total ignorance of the circumstances under which the measure was adopted; to the latter opinion I would oppose one observation.

It is the nature of war, not only to be unjust on the offensive, but to be *unequal* in its effects among individuals on the defensive. Some must be killed, wounded, worn out with fatigue, or plundered, and subjected to burthens, for which they are never indemnified; while others are enriched. The business of money in a war is, as far as possible, to equalize its evils, and atone for the ravages of violence. This can never be done to perfection by any money-system that can be imagined. All that can be said, therefore, against the paper currency of America is, that it performed its work in a less perfect manner, than a full Treasury of gold and silver would have done; and even this assertion might be questioned.

Though this money was counterfeited by waggon loads in the British garrisons, and sent into circulation in the country, yet none of the consequences followed which were expected from this manœuvre. The paper-money carried on the war for five years; when it was called in at a great discount, gave place to other measures which the circumstances of the country rendered practicable, and went peaceably to rest, as here described by the Author.

The "weak crutches," called *Regulation* and *Tender*, on which this *Spectre* is supported, allude to the different acts of the State-Legislatures, made with the design of maintaining the credit of the Continental Paper. Some of these acts regulated the prices of commodities, others made this paper a legal tender in payment.

Edit.

Tho' born with constitution frail,
And feeble strength that soon must fail ;
Yet strangely vers'd in magic lore,
And gifted with transforming pow'r,
His skill the wealth Peruvian joins
With diamonds of Brazilian mines.
As erst Jove fell by subtle wiles
On Danae's apron thro' the tiles,
In show'rs of gold : his potent hand
Shall shed like show'rs thro' all the land.
Less great the magic art was reckon'd,
Of tallies cast by Charles the Second,
Or Law's famed Mississippi schemes,
Or all the wealth of South-sea dreams.
For he of all the world alone
Owns the long-sought Philos'pher's Stone,
Restores the fab'lous times to view,
And proves the tale of Midas true.
O'er heaps of rags he waves his wand,
All turn to gold at his command,
Provide for present wants and future,
Raise armies, victual, clothe, accoutre,
Adjourn our conquests by effoign,
Check Howe's advance, and take Burgoyne,
Then makes all days of payment vain,
And turns all back to rags again.
In vain great Howe shall play his part,
To ape and counterfeit his art ;

In vain shall Clinton, more belated,
A conj'rer turn to imitate it ;
With like ill luck and pow'r as narrow,
They'll fare, like for'cers of old Pharaoh,
Who tho' the art they understood
Of turning rivers into blood,
And caus'd their frogs and snakes t'exist,
That with some merit croak'd and hiss'd,
Yet ne'er, by ev'ry quaint device,
Could frame the true Mosaic lice.
He for the Whigs his arts shall try,
Their first, and long their sole ally ;
A patriot firm, while breath he draws,
He'll perish in his country's cause ;
And when his magic labours cease,
Lie bury'd in eternal peace.

“ Now view the scenes in future hours,
That wait the fam'd European Pow'rs.
See where yon chalky cliffs arise,
The hills of Britain strike your eyes :
Its small extension long supply'd
By vast immensity of pride ;
So small, that had it found a station
In this new world at first creation,
Or were by Justice doom'd to suffer,
And for its crimes transported over,

We'd find full room for't in Lake Erie, or
That larger water-pond, Superior *,
Where North, on margin taking stand,
Would not be able to spy land.

No more, elate with pow'r, at ease
She deals her insults round the seas ;
See, dwindling from her height amain,
What piles of ruin spread the plain ;
With mould'ring hulks her ports are fill'd,
And brambles clothe the cultur'd field !
See on her cliffs her Genius lies,
His hankerchief at both his eyes,

* This supposition, so far as it respects *Lake Superior*, is not exaggerated. That Lake is 2200 miles in circumference. The Editors find it their duty to vindicate the Poet from a charge of a breach of delicacy, to which some suppose this passage renders him liable. By saying, North " would not be able to spy land," they imagine he means to ridicule the misfortune of that noble Lord in the loss of his sight. But we will testify to all his readers both present and future (or at least, to all *our* readers, as long as these our annotations shall accompany this immortal work) that this Poem was written and published, word for word as in this edition, several years before the above misfortune happened to his lordship. Therefore the Author must be pronounced innocent of the least design upon any thing more than mental blindness. There is no allusion to any other eyes in his lordship, than the eyes of his understanding, which were supposed, by some people at that time, to be wonderously dim ; especially when considered as belonging to the Argus of a great nation. *Edit.*

With many a deep-drawn sigh and groan,
To mourn her ruin and his own!
While joyous Holland, France, and Spain,
With conqu'ring navies rule the main,
And Russian banners, wide unfurl'd,
Spread commerce round the eastern world.
And see (sight hateful and tormenting)
Th' Amer'can empire, proud and vaunting,
From anarchy shall change her crasis,
And fix her pow'r on firmer basis;
To glory, wealth, and fame ascend,
Her commerce rise, her realms extend;
Where now the panther guards his den,
Her desert forests swarm with men,
Her cities, tow'rs, and columns rise,
And dazzling temples meet the skies;
Her pines descending to the main,
In triumph spread the wat'ry plain;
Ride inland lakes with fav'ring gales,
And croud her ports with whit'ning sails;
Till to the skirts of western day,
The peopl'd regions own her sway."

Thus far M'Fingal told his tale,
When thund'ring shouts his ears assail,
And strait a Tory that stood sentry,
Aghast, rush'd headlong down the entry,
And with wild outcry, like magician,
Dispers'd the residue of vision:

For

For now the Whigs intell'gence found
Of Tories must'ring under ground,
And with rude bangs and loud uproar,
'Gan thunder furious at the door.
The lights put out, each Tory calls
To cover him, on cellar walls,
Creeps in each box, or bin, or tub,
To hide his head from wrath of mob,
Or lurks, where cabbages in row
Adorn'd the side with verdant show,
M'Fingal deem'd it vain to stay,
And risk his bones in second fray;
But chose a grand retreat from foes,
In lit'ral sense, beneath their nose.
The window then, which none else knew,
He softly open'd and crept thro',
And crawling slow in deadly fear,
By movements wise made good his rear.
Then, scorning all the fame of martyr,
For Boston took his swift departure;
Nor dar'd look back on fatal spot,
More than the family of Lot.
Not North, in more distress'd condition,
Out-voted first by Opposition:
Nor good King George when that dire phantom
Of Independence comes to haunt him,
Which hov'ring round by night and day,
Not all his conj'ers yet can lay.

His

His friends, assembl'd for his sake,
He wisely left in pawn, at stake;
To tarring, feath'ring, kicks, and drubs
Of furious, disappointed mobs,
And with their forfeit hides to pay
For him, their leader, crept away.
So when wife Noah summon'd greeting
All animals to gen'ral meeting;
From ev'ry side the members sent
All kinds of beasts to represent;
Each from the flood took care t' embark,
And save his carcase in the ark;
But as it fares in state and church,
Left his constituents in the lurch.



F I N I S.